Shoes, jacket, drugs sent to Italian priest

STORY ON PAGE A2

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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Headline piques Tiglao

BY C. PABLO

GANYAN BA ANG NEW YORK TIMES?

HONG KONG—Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao yesterday blasted the INQUIRER for its headline Sunday, saying it should be more responsible.

Tiglao was

HEADLINE/ A6

Zambo plaza blast: 11 dead, scores hurt

Explosion occurs as 19 US advisers fly to Basilan

A US Marine in Zamboanga City. AP

BY JULIE ALIPALA-INOT
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ZAMBOANGA CITY—At least 11 people were killed and scores, including several children, were injured last night when a homemade bomb exploded at a popular gathering place in this city.

Police said they had found at least 10 bodies at the scene, but hospital officials told newsmen at least 11 people were killed, many of them mangled and decapitated by the powerful blast.

Witnesses said the bomb went off about 7:45 p.m. at a barbecue grill in the crowded plaza of the Zamboanga Puericulture Center on La Purisima Street, shattering show windows and breaking wooden doors at a nearby mall.

Authorities found a second explosive device in front of a Chow King outlet, but it was safely detonated with water cannon.

The explosion came after 23 US military advisers arrived at the Southern Command headquarters here to review the military campaign against the Abu Sayyaf, a terrorist group linked to Osama bin Laden, the main suspect in the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States.

Nineteen of the US advisers flew to Basilan yesterday morning to train local troops battling Abu Sayyaf bandits who are holding two American hostages.

Col. Alexander Yano, head of Task Force Zamboanga, said it was still "too early to say" who might be behind the blast.

But military intelligence officials earlier warned that the Abu Sayyaf might stage attacks and bombings to divert the

ZAMBO/ A20

US MILITARY advisers supervise the training of Filipino Scout Rangers at a firing range in Basilan. The advisers visited Basilan to help train Philippine troops fighting the Abu Sayyaf. AFP

Asean chiefs form troika to combat terrorism

SOUTHEAST Asian leaders will adopt a common strategy to combat terrorism—a strategy drafted by the Philippines, officials say. According to a draft declaration, the strategy will include a call for the creation of an "Asean troika" to strengthen regional cooperation in combating terrorism "in all its forms."

Prospective members of the troika were not named, but they are believed to be the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia.

The joint action is part of an anti-terrorism declaration prepared for adoption by the 10 leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), set to meet in Brunei this week for the first time since the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States.

President Macapagal-Arroyo described the declaration as "important," saying governments were now "looking at the draft to vet it and revise it as needed."

The Asean summit is not the only high-level international conference tackling the terrorism issue. The World Economic Forum is also meeting in Hong Kong starting today to discuss the region's economic slump and the fallout from the terror attacks on the United States.

The WEF's three-day East Asia Economic Summit, to be attended by around 800 business and government leaders led by President Macapagal, will look for ways to alleviate the effects on Asia of the global slump.

The first item on the WEF agenda is the impact of the terror attacks on Asia and the region's role in the "war on terrorism."

"It's hard to imagine a more important time, a more important set of issues than the ones on the agenda for this summit, especially in the aftermath of the terrorist incidents in the USA," said Mike Rowse, the head of Hong Kong's agency charged with attracting for-

ASEAN/ A20

More civilians killed as US steps up bombing

KABUL—A US bombing raid early Sunday morning on the northern outskirts killed at least 10 people, the second apparent stray strike in less than 24 hours to cause civilian fatalities.

In neighboring Pakistan where Islamic militants have denounced the US campaign against the Taliban, armed assailants on Sunday opened fire on a Christian church in Bahawalpur, killing at least 16 worshippers.

At the scene of Sunday morning's strike on the northern edge of Kabul, an AP reporter saw the bodies of four children and two adults. Neighbors said the bombing killed at least 10 villagers.

Word of the latest strike gone awry came a day after stray bombs hit two villages behind the opposition Northern Alliance's battle lines north of Kabul. A third village behind Taliban lines was also hit.

At least eight civilians were killed in all three villages, according to witnesses. About 10 others were injured.

"I and my staff are deeply shocked, especially when you see a 4-year-old child and old people coming in," said Kate Rowlands, program director of an Italian-run emergency clinic in opposition territory.

She said injured civilians on the Taliban side crossed the frontline by donkey to seek treatment.

"We are totally against any form of war or violent attacks that involve the death and mutilation of

MORE/ A20

Gloria smiles, flies to China

BY DONA PAZZIBUGAN

IN SHARP contrast to her demeanor on Friday, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday smiled every now and then while giving her departure speech at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

She did not even lose her composure despite a protest rally that greeted her at the airport.

At Friday's press conference, the President blew her top over the media's reporting of rumors of a supposed coup plot.

At the airport on Sunday, Ms Macapagal made no mention at all of the supposed destabilization attempts, which she had dismissed as the "product of imagination" of her enemies.

Top police and military officials have repeatedly affirmed their loyalty to Ms Macapagal in recent days.

At 8 a.m. yesterday, the President, First

GLORIA/ A20

REUTERS

A BEAMING President Macapagal waves to members of the Philippine community in Hong Kong before spelling out her administration's policies for overseas Filipino workers.

Angara bloc rejects coup against GMA

BY AMANDO DORONILA

ANALYSIS

THE COUP rumors—regardless of whoever started them—have forced up to the surface the widening rift within the opposition over power seizure as a means to topple the Macapagal administration before the 2004 presidential election.

The manifestation of this rift is the statement issued by Sen. Edgardo Angara, head of the biggest bloc in the opposition, Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, on Friday calling for a multiparty covenant that would bind all to reject all forms of extra-constitutional means of taking power.

Angara, who is identified with the moderate wing of the opposition, issued the statement from the United States, where he had a speaking engagement, apparently to distance himself from reported coup plots.

The administration has claimed a cabal in the opposition has been monitored by military and police intelligence making moves to train armed men and recruit troops to back possible coup attempts.

This cabal has been identified as hard-core supporters of deposed President Joseph Estrada both inside and outside the legislature. This group adheres to the strategy of exploiting the weaknesses and alleged scandals of corruption of the Macapagal administration to stir up disgruntled officers and to win converts from the military and the national police to overthrow the administration.

ANGARA/ A5

Applause, protest greet President in HK

BY CARLITO PABLO

HONG KONG—President Macapagal-Arroyo greeted Filipino overseas workers who turned out to meet her here with a gift: an order directing the Philippine consulate to open on Sundays.

She drew massive applause from some 4,000 mostly female workers, many of them domestic helpers, who were gathered at the Hong Kong International Trade and Exhibition Center. About 2,000 more held an outdoor rally expressing support for her administration.

On the other side of Hong Kong harbor, however, several hundred maids held a protest rally.

Ms Macapagal's order would allow some 180,000 Filipinos in China's Special Administrative Region, most of whom take their day off on Sundays, to transact business with the consulate without incurring a deduction in their pay. By law, maids in Hong Kong get about $470 per month, plus room and board.

The President also promised a cut in consular fees. In May 1999, then President Joseph Estrada made the same promises, to open the consulate on Sundays and to cut down on fees, but apparently the promises were not kept.

Ms Macapagal was accompanied by Mike Velarde, founder of the influential El Shaddai religious group, and Eddie Villanueva, founder of the rival Jesus is Lord movement.

Inside the convention center, Velarde urged his flock to support the President as she "will lead us to a bigger future."

"Let us unite and God will not refuse our prayers," said Velarde, a known supporter of Estrada's.

The same message was also made by Eddie Villanueva. The Jesus is Lord movement supported then President Fidel Ramos and was involved in the second People Power movement that deposed Estrada.

APPLAUSE/ A6

KAWAWA
NAMAN
SI
FATHER!

Second FRONT PAGE

Shoes, drugs for Fr. Beppe

PAGADIAN CITY—Church lay workers yesterday delivered a pair of rubber shoes, a leather jacket and medicines to the kidnappers of Italian missionary Fr. Giuseppe "Beppe" Pierantoni at an undisclosed location in the jungles of Lanao del Sur, Church officials said.

Bishop Zacarias Jimenez of the Zamboanga del Sur diocese said the lay workers, who are from the prelature of Marawi City, managed to establish contact with the kidnappers and handed over to their emissaries the items meant for Father Pierantoni.

The 44-year-old Italian was abducted from his parish in Dimataling town, Zamboanga del Sur, earlier this month.

The military, which is still trying to determine the exact location of the priest and his abductors, have said a group reportedly belonging to a "lost command" of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front has custody of the Italian priest.

Father Giuseppe is reportedly being held by Norhan Amil, alias Commander Ramsey, one of the leaders of the Pentagon kidnap gang.

"We have reports that they are in Kapatagan in Lanao del Sur but we are still confirming this and are trying to pinpoint their location," Brig. Gen. Angel Atutubo, the head of Task Force Giuseppe, said.

Another report yesterday said the kidnappers had taken Father Pierantoni to Datu Paglas in Maguindanao province.

This is the birthplace of Salamat Hashim, the MILF chief.

The report said that Commander Ramsey, who is believed to have carried out the abduction, was planning to surrender because of pressure from the intense military operation.

The MILF, which is negotiating a peace settlement with the government, has denied involvement in the kidnapping.

Jimenez said he did not know where the meeting with the kidnappers' emissaries took place but had been informed by phone that the delivery was made at noon.

Jimenez said that he was informed that Father "Beppe" was suffering from amoebiasis, a waterborne bacteria that causes dehydration, stomach pain, vomiting and diarrhea.

Meanwhile, a major hitch developed in the negotiations for the kidnapped priest's release as three rival groups of negotiators have emerged.

Two of these negotiating groups were formed by two prominent politicians from Lanao del Sur and Lanao del Norte.

The first group initiating its own negotiations with the Pentagon gang is reportedly from the Dimaporo political clan of Lanao del Norte.

The second group is associated with Rep. Binasing Macarambon of Lanao del Sur.

A third group is reportedly made up of relatives of Faizal Marohombzar, the leader of the Pentagon gang.

One of the three groups is believed to have the blessings of the Church hierarchy.

No one from the diocese here was willing to say which group was favored by the Church.

In Manila, however, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said the government would not negotiate with Father Pierantoni's kidnappers although the group has reportedly lowered the ransom demand.

"We are not in the business of negotiating with them, we just continue to pursue the kidnappers and recover the hostages," Reyes told reporters when asked about reports that the ransom demand has been reduced to P10 million.

"If they feel that they won't get anything out of it, then probably they would have to reduce and reduce and reduce," Reyes said.

Asked if the government would ask MILF for help in freeing the Italian, presidential peace process adviser Eduardo Ermita said the government has not openly asked anyone for help.

"We have had two experiences of asking the MILF to help and they were very helpful," he told reporters.

Hernan de la Cruz, PDI Mindanao Bureau with a report from Martin Marfil, Metro Manila

THREE rival groups in Lanao negotiating for release of Father Pierantoni

Tight security for Erap trial

BY VOLT CONTRERAS

AMID lingering coup rumors, security will be tighter when deposed president Joseph Estrada returns to the Sandiganbayan this morning for the start of his trial for perjury.

The anti-graft court's First Division, chaired by Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena, has issued a "produce order" to the Philippine National Police to bring Estrada to court for the 8:30 a.m. hearing.

The order, which was issued last week, also requires Estrada to attend the continuation of the trial tomorrow, Tuesday, and on Wednesday, according to the court sheriff, Eduardo Urieta.

An official privy to today's security set-up said the police intelligence community had been monitoring pro-Estrada groups expected to hold protest rallies at the Sandiganbayan Complex on Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City.

Told of this, Estrada lawyer Rene Saguisag said: "So it would be better if we just don't bring him there, right? *Gastos na naman ito* (This means more expenses)," alluding to the cost of deploying scores of anti-riot police each time his client goes to court.

Saguisag said Estrada is technically out on bail in the perjury case. He is detained at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center, however, for the more serious, non-bailable charge of plunder, which is being heard at the 3rd Division.

"Why he is compelled to appear today puzzles us," the defense lawyer said, adding that Estrada, like in the plunder case, has also filed a waiver of appearance for the perjury charge.

The ex-president is accused of falsifying his statement of assets, and liabilities for 1999, wherein he pegged his net worth at around P35 million and claimed to have stakes in only three corporations.

The Ombudsman filed a second perjury case against him two weeks ago, this time concerning his 1998 SAL. This was raffled off to the 3rd Division.

State prosecutors are expected to open the trial with its first batch of witnesses, namely: William Chua, corporate secretary of the Asia United Banking Inc.; Renato Balatbat, senior manager of Keppel Bank, San Juan branch; Salvador Serrano, vice president of Security Bank; and Geraldine Nakpil, manager of Citibank, San Juan branch.

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Palace ignores Nur call for secession

BY DONA PAZZIBUGAN

MALACAÑANG is not bothered that ARMM Gov. Nur Misuari, erstwhile chair of the Moro National Liberation Front, the main Muslim-led insurgency, is reported to have revived his campaign for an independent Islamic state.

Eduardo Ermita, the presidential adviser on the peace process, described as "very possible" news reports that the Misuari faction of the MNLF had joined forces with a faction of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the other Muslim-led rebel group, to call for secession.

But he said their secessionist aims would not prosper because the secessionist groups had lost the backing of their traditional foreign allies—Libya, Indonesia and Malaysia.

"Nobody can prevent anybody from shouting to the whole world that they are going back to their aspiration to establish an Islamic state," Ermita said.

"It's one thing to say that, it's another thing to do it given that their usual supporters are not supporting that aim anymore," he said.

Reports quoting MNLF and MILF officials said MNLF vice chair Jimmy Labawan and MILF vice chair Ghadzali Jaafar had concluded an agreement in Sultan Kudarat last week to pursue their original aim of secession.

Ermita said it was possible that Misuari was making moves of his own after the 15-man MNLF central committee which ousted him signed a unity agreement with the MILF in Kuala Lumpur last August to pursue peace and development in Mindanao.

The agreement was presented to President Macapagal-Arroyo and Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir during Ms Macapagal's visit to Kuala Lumpur.

"It's very possible that Misuari is also making a move about having a similar unity agreement with another faction of the MILF. But I have no personal knowledge of that," Ermita said.

But this would not affect the peace talks between the government and the MILF, he said.

"You can interpret it as (Misuari) creating trouble because he himself is troubled within his own organization," Ermita said.

After Misuari's ouster as MNLF chair, the government chose MNLF leader and presidential adviser Farouk Hussein as its candidate for ARMM governor in next month's elections.

Misuari, who was given the title MNLF chairman emeritus, rejected President Macapagal-Arroyo's offer of an ambassadorship and has threatened to renew his campaign to establish a separate Islamic state in Mindanao.

The MNLF under Misuari had entered into a peace agreement with the government in 1996, which called for the creation of an autonomous Muslim region in Mindanao.

The MILF is a breakaway faction of the MNLF headed by Hashim Salamat.

Manila Water rates up by 32%

BY C. GAYLICAN

MANILA Water Co. customers will be paying higher water charges starting this November, after the Ayala-owned concessionaire was allowed to increase basic water rates by P1 per cubic meter to enable it to recover its foreign exchange losses.

This means a 32 percent increase in the water bills of Manila Water subscribers who are currently charged a basic rate of P3.06 per cu. meter.

With the increase, a 50 cubic-meter monthly consumption would be charged an average of P203, from the previous P153.

The amount does not include the charges for environmental, miscellaneous and value-added tax.

This is the third time this year that Manila Water has been allowed to increase its rates by the government regulatory body, the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, and the National Economic and Development Authority.

Last January, it was granted an extraordinary pricing adjustment of 19 centavos.

Last May, it was allowed a 26-centavo per cubic meter increase, the result of the amicable settlement of its court dispute with MWSS.

The tariff adjustment necessitated amending the concession agreement between Manila Water and the government.

Manila Water demanded that it be allowed to increase its rates to recover foreign exchange losses after the other concessionaire, Maynilad Water Services, was allowed an increase, effective this month.

"All the items related to financial relief in the form of tariff adjustments given as amendments to Maynilad were adopted as amendments to our concession agreement," said Virgilio Rivera Jr., Manila Water group director for regulatory affairs and planning.

Under the amendments, which have to be confirmed by the Neda, Manila Water is also allowed to adjust its water tariffs in case of further fluctuations in the peso-dollar exchange rate.

Unlike the monthly currency exchange rate mechanism used by other utilities in reflecting exchange rate fluctuations, the foreign currency differential adjustment (FCDA) devised by the MWSS for the water concessionaires will be applied as additional water charges on a quarterly basis.

The FCDA is to be applied from January 2002 to December 2003.

The Ayala Group is the majority owner of Manila Water. Its foreign partners are the US-based Bechtel Overseas and the UK-based United Utilities.

Manila Water, which services Metro Manila's east zone, covers Makati, Mandaluyong, San Juan, Angono, Baras, Binangonan, Cainta, Cardona, Jala-jala, Morong, Pililla, Rodriguez, San Mateo, Tanay, Taytay, and parts of Marikina, Taguig, Pasig, Pateros and Quezon City.

Sino fruits ban not on table in Beijing visit

BY TJ BURGONIO

THE PHILIPPINE import ban on Chinese fruits will not be among the sticky issues to be discussed during President Macapagal-Arroyo's state visit to Beijing, Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor said yesterday.

If the issue were to crop up, however, the Philippines would reiterate its position that the ban would not be lifted until Chinese quarantine authorities are able to control the pest that has been infesting their fruits, said Montemayor.

"The ban stays until they are able to show us satisfactorily that the problem has been overcome," said the agriculture secretary who is flying to Hong Kong today to join the presidential party.

"I think we have been reasonable. This was based on international practice," he said.

Montemayor imposed a ban on the importation of Chinese fruits last Oct. 11, 10 days after a large shipment of apples from China was found to contain codling moth, a destructive fruit pest.

Chinese Embassy officials in Manila protested the total ban, saying it would adversely affect their export trade.

One official even threatened to stop importing Philippine bananas.

This prompted Montemayor to amend his order, limiting the ban to fruits coming from China's Shandong province and Dalian City, where the shipment of the pest-infested apples had originated.

A three-man team from the Bureau of Plant Industry, led by its director Blo Ompar Adiong, will leave for China this week to look into the extent of the codling moth infestation and the prevention measures being undertaken there.

The team will tour China for eight days to inspect apple farms and the growers' packaging facilities as well as check their crop infestation and quarantine systems.

DA chief stays as chair of NFA

ALTHOUGH he has lost the National Food Authority (NFA) and the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) to the Office of the President, Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor retains the chairmanship of the boards of these agencies.

Montemayor said it was President Macapagal-Arroyo herself who told him during a recent meeting in Malacañang to stay on as chair of the NFA and PCA.

"I told her that 'Ma'am I'm the chair of the boards of both PCA and NFA, do I continue as chair?' She said 'You continue as chair'," the agriculture secretary said.

Under Executive Order 14, which mandates the transfer of the PCA and the NFA to the Office of the President, the President shall designate the chair of the NFA Council and the chair of the PCA Governing Board.

Montemayor said he brought up the issue with Ms Macapagal in view of the agriculture department's "collaborative programs" with both the PCA and the NFA, which he feared might be discontinued because of the transfer.

"I asked her what would happen to the DA's several programs with the NFA and the PCA now that these agencies were no longer under the DA. She told me to continue the programs," he said. *TJ Burgonio*

Top shipping execs coming to Manila

SOME of the world's top shipowners and shipping executives are coming to Manila in November for the 4th LSM (Lloyd's Ship Manager) Asia Pacific Manning and Training Conference.

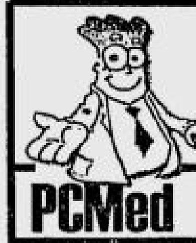
Organized by the London-based Lloyd's List Events, the conference is considered the most important international event in the world crewing industry. This year's conference, slated from Nov. 19 to 21, will carry the theme "A New Age of Maritime Employment."

"The conference is booking well and there are now more companies exhibiting than ever before," Lloyd's List Events Program Director Patrick Hitchen said.

"We have over 200 bookings at the moment and we predict that this event will once again be the global manning and training industry's biggest meet of the year," he added.

The organizers also announced that John Hough, international recruitment and training director of the Norwegian Shipowners Association, has accepted the invitation to serve as conference chairman. Hough is an old "Philippine hand," having been director of the Norwegian Training Center-Manila.

Lloyd's List Events has also confirmed the attendance of Mr. Rune Teisrud, Norway's director general of shipping and navigation as well as Philippine Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas.



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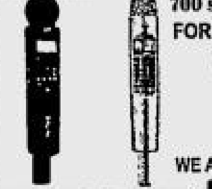

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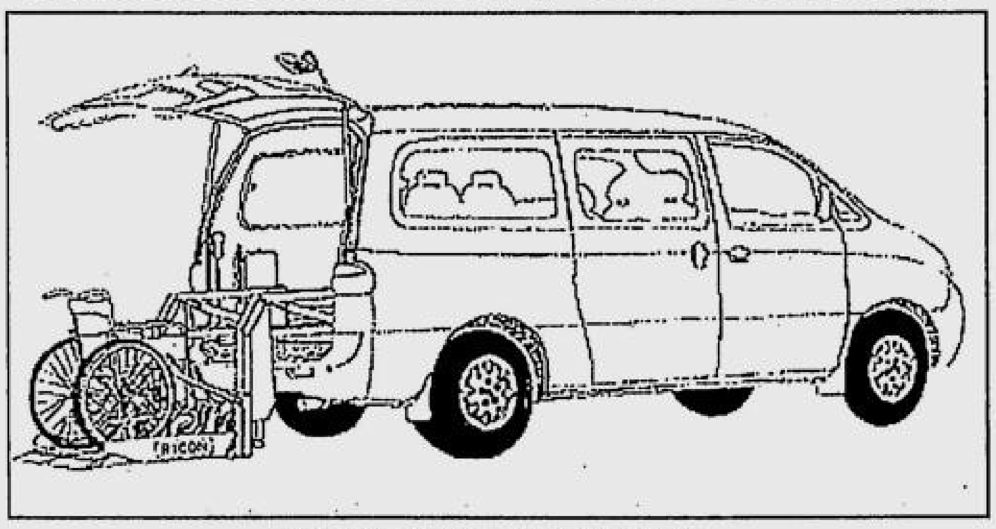

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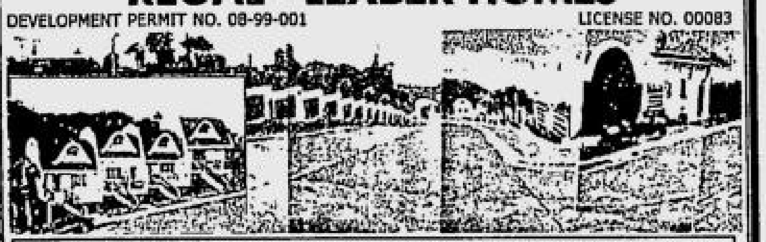

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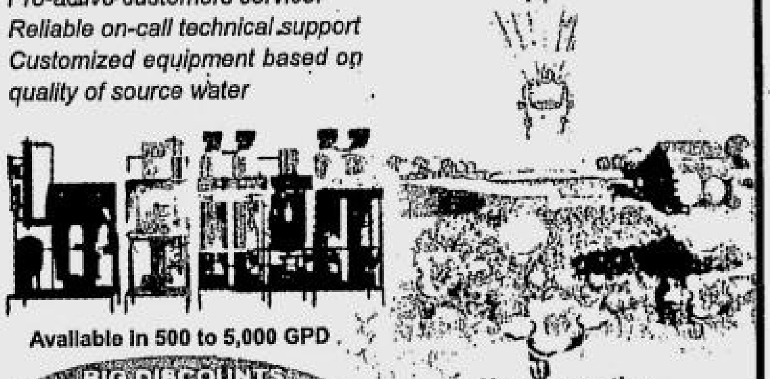

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Malaysia to deport 300,000 foreign workers, say papers

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysia, facing an economic slowdown, will deport about 300,000 foreign workers to free up jobs for locals, newspapers reported on Sunday.

The government has decided to cut short the stay of foreign workers in the country to three years, Home Ministry parliamentary secretary Abu Zahar Isnin was quoted as saying. This is expected to affect thousands of Filipinos who work in Malaysia.

However, there is no limit to the period of employment of foreign housemaids.

Foreign workers in the manufacturing, construction and services industries were previously allowed to work for six years while those in estates were given work permits for seven years.

Abu Zahar said employers would be given three months to send workers home, adding that employers who fail to send them back would not be allowed to hire foreign workers in the future.

"We are now reducing the time limit to three years. With the world economic climate showing signs of a slowdown, many local workers are out of jobs," Abu Zahar was quoted by the Sunday Star as saying.

"The government wants to change the policy so that job priority will be given to locals," he said.

But Abu Zahar said if efforts to hire local workers failed, the government might once again allow the hiring of foreigners.

Malaysia is home to more than a million foreign workers, mainly from Indonesia, India, Bangladesh, Thailand, Myanmar and the Philippines.

Thousands of Malaysians working in the electronics industry have been laid off due to the global electronics slump.

Malaysia has revised downwards its 2001 gross domestic product growth forecast for a second time, to 1.0-2.0 percent, because of the "greater-than-expected" slowdown in the world economy.

Growth in the manufacturing sector, the key pillar of the economy, is expected to decelerate to 0.2 percent in 2001 from 21 percent in 2000 due to the depressed global market for electronic goods that account for about half of Malaysia's manufactured goods.

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PAL starts Taipei, Manila Shanghai route

TAIPEI—Philippines Airlines began Sunday flights between Taipei and Shanghai via Manila, increasing the options for Taiwanese wanting to travel to Mainland China.

Direct flights between Taiwan and China have been outlawed for decades. Beijing considers the island a renegade province awaiting reunification.

The tens of thousands of Taiwanese who visit the mainland each year mostly have to travel via Hong Kong and Macao.

"We are confident in the outlook of the new flight route," a Philippine Airlines spokeswoman said.

The airline will fly five times a week on the new route.

It will also fly between Taipei and the southeastern Chinese city of Xiamen via Manila, with four flights weekly.

Calls for the lifting of the ban on direct flights have mounted as economic ties between Taipei and Beijing have improved.

Since the beginning of the year, Taiwan has allowed limited direct trade, transport and postal services between the offshore islands of Kinmen and Matsu to the Chinese cities of Xiamen and Fuzhou.

The introduction of the so-called mini-links ended a 50-year-old ban on direct links between the two arch foes.

Taipei has said that if the "mini links" go well comprehensive direct links could eventually be launched. *AFP*

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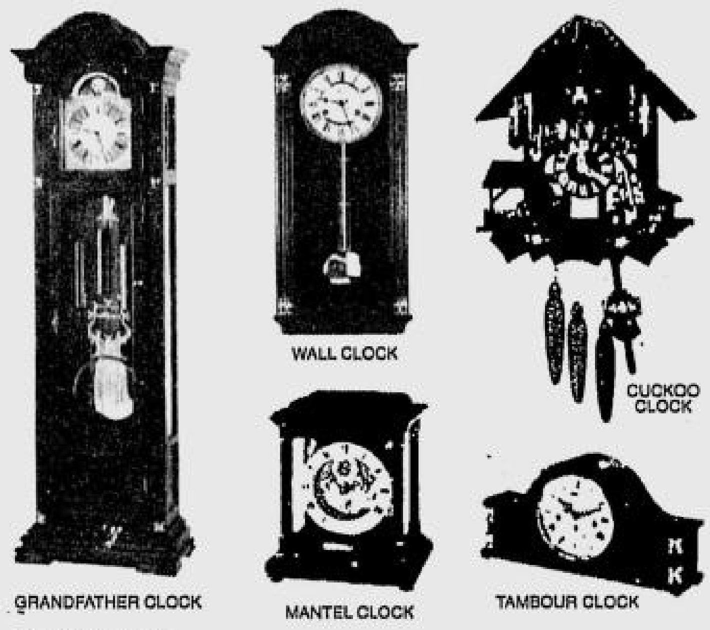

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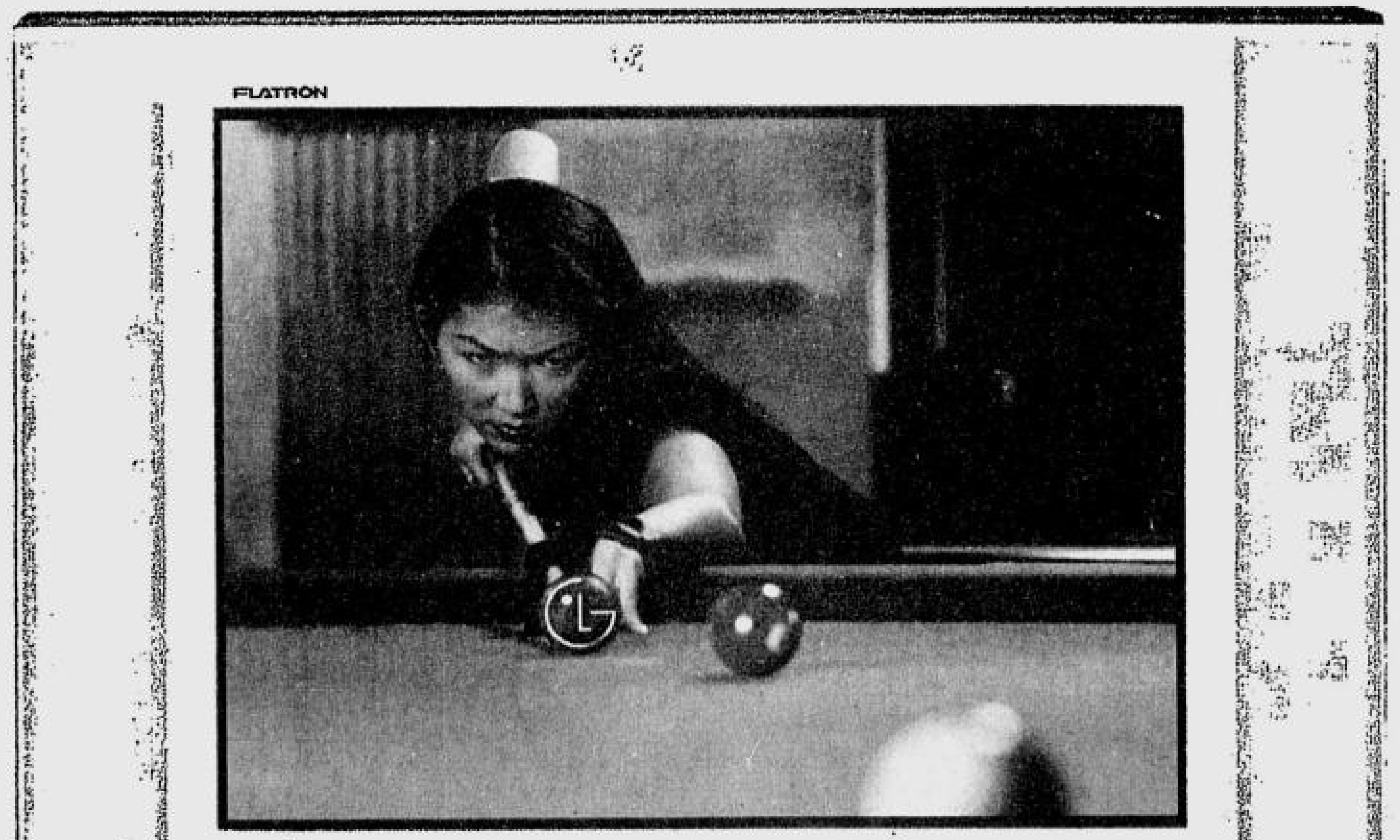

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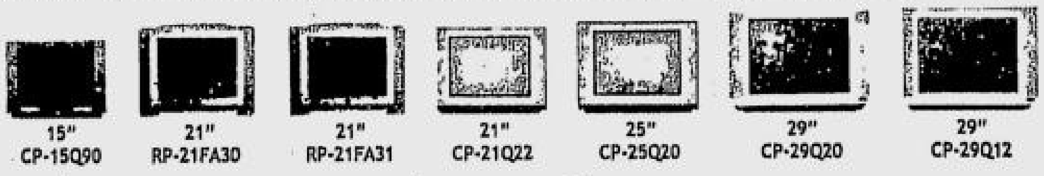

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Angara bloc rejects coup against GMA

(From page A1)

But Angara made his bloc's position emphatic—and in stark contrast to the cabal's—with the statement that an all-party covenant abjuring coups "is the only logical move that political parties working within the democratic mainstream can do to stop all unproductive talk about coups."

Angara's position is apparently based on the calculation that the Macapagal administration is saddled with many problems that hamper its capacity to deliver results during the rest of her presidency. Consequently, according to this strategy, the administration will fall from its own weight, reducing its chances of winning reelection. Implicit in this strategy is that the question of unseating President Macapagal and her administration's would have to be settled by the 2004 elections.

Angara appears to have the support of some opposition senators, who adhere to the parliamentary solution point of view.

But not of Sen. Panfilo Lacson, who has taken the tack that the administration has fueled the rumors to shift attention from bribery allegations by the President's husband, Mike Arroyo. This is trivializing the issue of coups.

Act of treason

Opposition Senator Blas Ople expressed strong opposition to coups, saying that a coup conspiracy was an act of treason, and coup plotters and participants deserved to be executed.

But Ople's anti-coup position appears to be based on his perception that the coup danger stems from the military intervention. Ople has backed President Macapagal's call for an economic summit to come to grips with the domestic and worldwide economic slowdown, aggravated by the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States.

President Macapagal has blamed "enemies of the administration" —whom she did not name—for spreading the rumors that groups in the military and the police were plotting to overthrow her government and set up a civil-military junta.

Her statement is backed by military and police intelligence reports indicating efforts to recruit followers from the military and police to back a move to bring down her administration.

National Security Council Adviser Roilo Golez has disclosed that plotters have trained 50 paramilitary troopers called the Urban Poor Liberation Front in Bulacan to take part in what he correctly describes as "destabilization" efforts.

There is no reason to doubt that Golez has invented this yarn or that the government intelligence services have observed unusual movements of recruitment in military camps. Nor is there any reason to doubt President Macapagal's assurance that the military and the police are plotting to seize power.

Her statement that those spreading the rumors "know that they do not have the capacity to launch the coup" is credible. It is, however, true that the administration has been checking these reports and is taking steps to avoid the repetition of the May 1 mob attack on Malacañang.

Precautions

One such precautions was the President's meeting with the leaders of YOU on Thursday. Such meeting could have yielded a reading of whether there is unrest inside the armed forces.

After the meeting, YOU leaders were reported to have repeated the organization's loyalty to the government. The reiteration of loyalty is an indication that young military officers, who have a sensitive antenna on the mood of the military rank-and-file should know whether there is unrest that could provide the basis for defection from the government.

During the last 10 months of the Estrada administration, the ferment of unrest was widespread inside the Armed Forces over corruption in the administration. Unrest intensified after the exposé on the jueteng payoffs in October 2000, heightening during impeachment trial of Estrada.

This unrest provided the favorable soil for the retired generals to wage a campaign inside the military, calling for Estrada's resignation—but not, it should be pointed out, for a coup d'etat.

The YOU, the generals and even those trying to recruit soldiers behind destabilization plots, know very well the ground is barren for sowing coup plots. It's like planting seeds on rock.

This is the most important reason why the coup plots—accurately described by Golez as "destabilization" action—do not come from the military or the national police. They should come from groups—clearly not identified with the administration—who cling to the belief that they could mount another people power, propelled by mass discontent.

Level of discontent

The level of discontent among the masses and the middle class, let alone the business class, has not reached the combustible level, despite tough economic times, to ignite large-scale street protests of the size that we saw from October 2000 to January 2001.

The fatal flaw of destabilization plots is that it is based on flimsy assumptions and leaves too many things to chance. The hypothesis is that the scandal mongering expressed in the Senate hearings on alleged wrongdoings by Mike Arroyo could detonate a bandwagon of protest similar to that started by the Singson exposé is not taking place.

The government is not under attack for incompetence and ignorance. The military and the police have no fundamental issue to compel them to remove government and there is no issue that can fuel widespread outrage against the government.

What is left to chance is that once unrest spills out to the streets (which is a hypothesis), then the plotters could gain support from soldiers either to seize power or to defect from government.

Plotters who have been recruiting support inside the military and police know by now that they do not have the capacity to mount a coup. Plotters in Arpil-May learned this lesson, much to their grief.

Plotters, however, are aware that the political situation and stability are volatile and there are events that can be exploited. One of these is calculation that if the Supreme Court voids the plunder law, this would have serious political implications.

One of these is that Estrada could be free on bail and this would allow him to incite unrest among the poor. Such a volatile development could divide the nation and sharpen political conflict. But, again, that is a hypothesis. This is perhaps the reason the enemies of the administration are preparing the ground for renewed political agitation.

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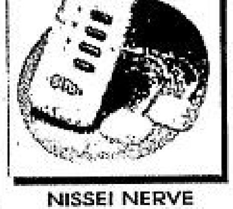

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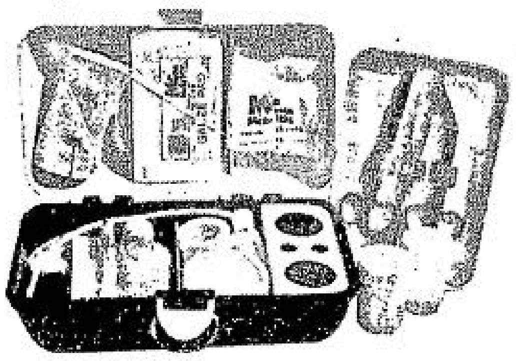

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Applause, protest greet GMA in Hong Kong

(From page A1)

In her speech, the President said that her government would "work doubly hard to strengthen overseas Filipino workers' protection."

This include the opening of the consulate on Sundays.

"I have ordered the consulate that instead of Friday, they should hold office on Sunday," Ms Macapagal said.

"I've heard of the request of overseas Filipinos in different countries that embassies or consulates must be open on Sunday when I was still a senator," the President said.

She also promised that passport and consular fees would be lowered.

She also promised that the country will work for the ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Protection of Migrant Workers in countries where there are Filipino workers.

More jobs

The President asked the workers for more understanding, because the government cannot bring them home yet.

She admitted that more jobs can be found outside the Philippines, and that the economy cannot absorb all workers returning to the country.

"The Philippine economy will, for the foreseeable future, continue to be heavily dependent on overseas-worker remittances," she said.

The cash sent home by Filipinos working as laborers and maids in Hong Kong and a number of other places around the world, including the United States, reaches about $7 billion annually, she said.

A group led by the militant United Filipinos in Hong Kong was supposed to hold a separate rally near the convention center to call the President's attention to the plight of migrant workers in the former British colony.

But Hong Kong-based Filipino journalists said the organizers decided to cancel the demonstration after they were told by the police they wouldn't be allowed to rally near the venue.

The police advisory was reportedly the result of the lobby mounted by the Philippine Consulate here.

When presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao was asked for an official explanation, however, he said that he was not aware of any such arrangements.

He did say, "it is a bit awkward" if a rally critical of the government was allowed.

"I mean why embarrass the President when she is in a foreign land?" Tiglao said.

But Tiglao said Ms Macapagal would have wanted to meet the rallyists, "but not in an atmosphere of confrontation."

Some maids are angered by what they call abuses by employment recruiters in the Philippines who they say are supposed to charge clients no more than one month's salary, but often make them pay many times that.

"We have so many demands," said Liduvina Racca, who hails from Pangasinan.

"The president doesn't want to hear from us. She doesn't want to entertain us."

In her speech, Ms Macapagal said she had heard of the overcharging, and she urged any worker to file formal complaints.

Ms Macapagal said she is ordering expedited hearings of such cases and will suspend or revoke the licenses of any recruiters found to be cheating the workers.

Park protest

On the opposite side of Hong Kong harbor, several hundred maids gathered in a park to protest. They chanted and danced, with an effigy of Ms Macapagal as a backdrop.

"Our purpose is to condemn the Philippine government for suppressing our freedom of speech," said Connie Bragas-Regalado of United Filipinos in Hong Kong.

Bragas-Regalado said Ms Macapagal was no better than her predecessor, Estrada, who was run out of office in January amid massive protests and now is being held without bail on corruption charges.

"All presidents are the same," Bragas-Regalado said. "They change faces, but the system is rotten."

The maids who got in to hear Arroyo saw things differently. Thirty-two-year-old Maria Acosta, who has worked in Hong Kong for 10 years, said she believed life would get better for the maids.

"I like the President because she's concerned about the Filipinos," Acosta said.

Ms Macapagal said that when she meets with Hong Kong Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa today, "the welfare of Filipinos in Hong Kong will be uppermost in my agenda."

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Much have been said about how smoking kills. Facts have been set, statistics have been stated. 4M people worldwide died last year because of it. 20,000 Filipinos will die this year because of it. It's a reality that we gloss over; take for granted, just read and pass on.

What we don't know is how we are slowly killing our children with every seemingly innocent cigarette puff. When we light that cigarette in a restaurant with children around. When we smoke in the malls where our children frequent in. When we ask our children to buy us a stick in the sari-sari store. Worse, when we ask our children to light that stick for us. Ever wonder why more and more children are coughing, wheezing and sniffing nowadays? **Asthma, bronchial infections, ear infections, respiratory ailments, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and lung cancer are only some of the effects of second-hand cigarette smoke on our children.**

The scariest thing of all is that studies in the Philippines show that Filipino children, as young as 7 years old, are already starting to smoke. And at the age of 13, they can already be considered as regular smokers, smoking at least one cigarette stick a day. Little men who can't wait to grow up but will eventually die young. It's a sad fact. And something we can't just gloss over, take for granted, read and pass on.

Thankfully, there is something we can do. And all it takes is a little bit of persuasion. If you see someone smoking in schools, malls, restaurants and enclosed vehicles or in any areas where there are children, please ask them to stop. If you are a smoker, we implore you not to smoke when children are around.

We encourage all concerned Filipinos to make a stand against cigarettes and tobacco. The Framework Convention for Tobacco Control (FCTC) is a worldwide agreement being drafted that aims to place stricter global control measures on the use, sale, advertising and promotions of tobacco and cigarettes particularly to the youth. Please send an e-mail to nonsmokingRP-subscribe@yahoogroups.com to show your support.

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PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Headline piques Tiglao

(From page A1)

referring to the headline, "Gloria asked to ditch Mike," which quoted Salvador Enriquez Jr., budget secretary of former President Fidel Ramos.

"It's one of the worst stories I've ever read," said Tiglao, a former INQUIRER columnist.

He said the headline was misleading as it was not supported by a direct quote from Enriquez.

"The INQUIRER should be the New York Times of the Philippines. It's the biggest isn't it?" said Tiglao, also the former Manila bureau chief of the Far Eastern Economic Review. "Therefore it should have a strict editorial policy that if you have a headline, you should have to prove that headline," Tiglao said.

Tiglao stressed that Enriquez never said that Ms Macapagal should get rid of her husband.

"So what kind of article is that?" Tiglao said.

In the story, Enriquez said President Macapagal-Arroyo should get rid of some "baggage," which, he said, contributed to her administration's lack of focus.

Enriquez was referring to members of the Macapagal administration linked to scandals.

He specifically cited First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, who is facing two separate investigations in the Senate.

One probe is looking into allegations that the First Gentleman received money in exchange for recalling his wife's veto of bills granting two telecommunication firms a congressional franchise.

The other was the alleged diversion of funds in the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office for the media campaign of four administration candidates in the last senatorial elections.

Tiglao said the banner story started off discussing another topic unrelated to the headline. It was only in the latter part of the story that the subject of the headline was discussed.

"The headline doesn't match the story," Tiglao said.

He didn't say how the President reacted to the story.

Sources, however, said the First Gentleman was "quite upset over how the story was treated."

In her press conference on Friday, the President's temper flared over continuing suggestions that her husband emulate the low-key spouse of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Ms Macapagal said her husband was doing a Dennis Thatcher in the sense that he was not meddling in government decisions, particularly those involving contracts.

Burden

In Manila, a leader of the Young Officers' Union (YOU) also described the First Gentleman as Ms Macapagal's "heaviest burden" for the 2004 elections.

YOU chair Supt. Rafael Cardeño said the President could not "dump" her husband as it would be "unchristian" and "unladylike."

"Quite unfortunately, she's stuck with him. No changing partners in mid-stream," the YOU leader said in response to a question sent to him by text.

Instead of dumping her husband, Ms Macapagal should resolve the issue "domestically" and "control" him, Cardeño suggested.

The YOU, a group of military and police officials that participated in earlier coups, recently captured public attention when rumors of a coup against the Macapagal administration floated last week.

Cardeño, who came out with an announcement asking corrupt government officials to resign, denied that the YOU had hatched a coup plan.

He even said that his group was not considering Ms Macapagal as the enemy.

Despite the denial, Cardeño was invited for questioning by the police and had an audience with Ms Macapagal on Thursday. *With a report from Martin P. Marfil*

NPAs kill 5 soldiers

COMMUNIST guerrillas ambushed a special forces Army patrol in Bukidnon province, killing five soldiers and wounding two, the military said yesterday.

Lt. Gen. Jaime de los Santos, the army commander, revealed the casualties to reporters during a formal sendoff for President Macapagal-Arroyo, who was leaving for Hong Kong on the way to a state visit to China.

New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas ambushed a platoon of the 10th Special Forces Company near the town of San Fernando, Bukidnon, late Saturday, military spokesmen said.

The firefight in Upper Balaas, Barangay Mabuhay lasted five hours and left five soldiers dead and two wounded, they said. The soldiers belonged to the 5th Special Forces Battalion. It was not known whether there were rebel casualties.

"They were attacked by about 40 men," De los Santos said. "It was bad luck." The Army platoon leader was identified as Capt. Apollo Palasol.

The communist rebels, according to the report, were led by Nonong Salusad and Tito Abucayan of the NPA's Northern Mindanao Regional Command.

The 11,600-member NPA is the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines. It is waging a 32-year Maoist campaign in the countryside.

Arroyo suspended talks with the communists indefinitely last June after the rebels assassinated two members of Congress. *AFP*

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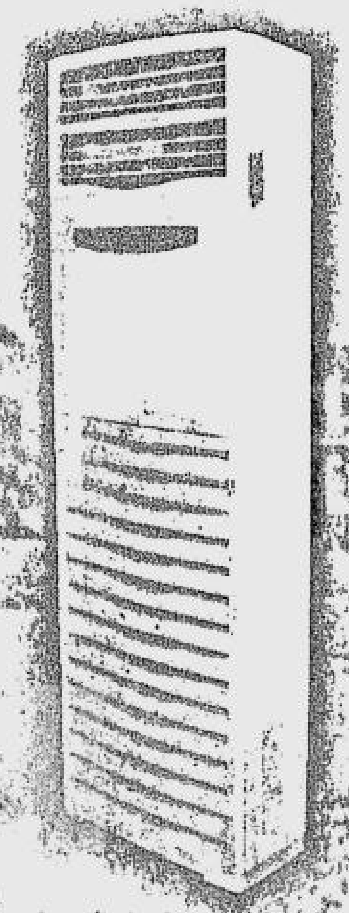

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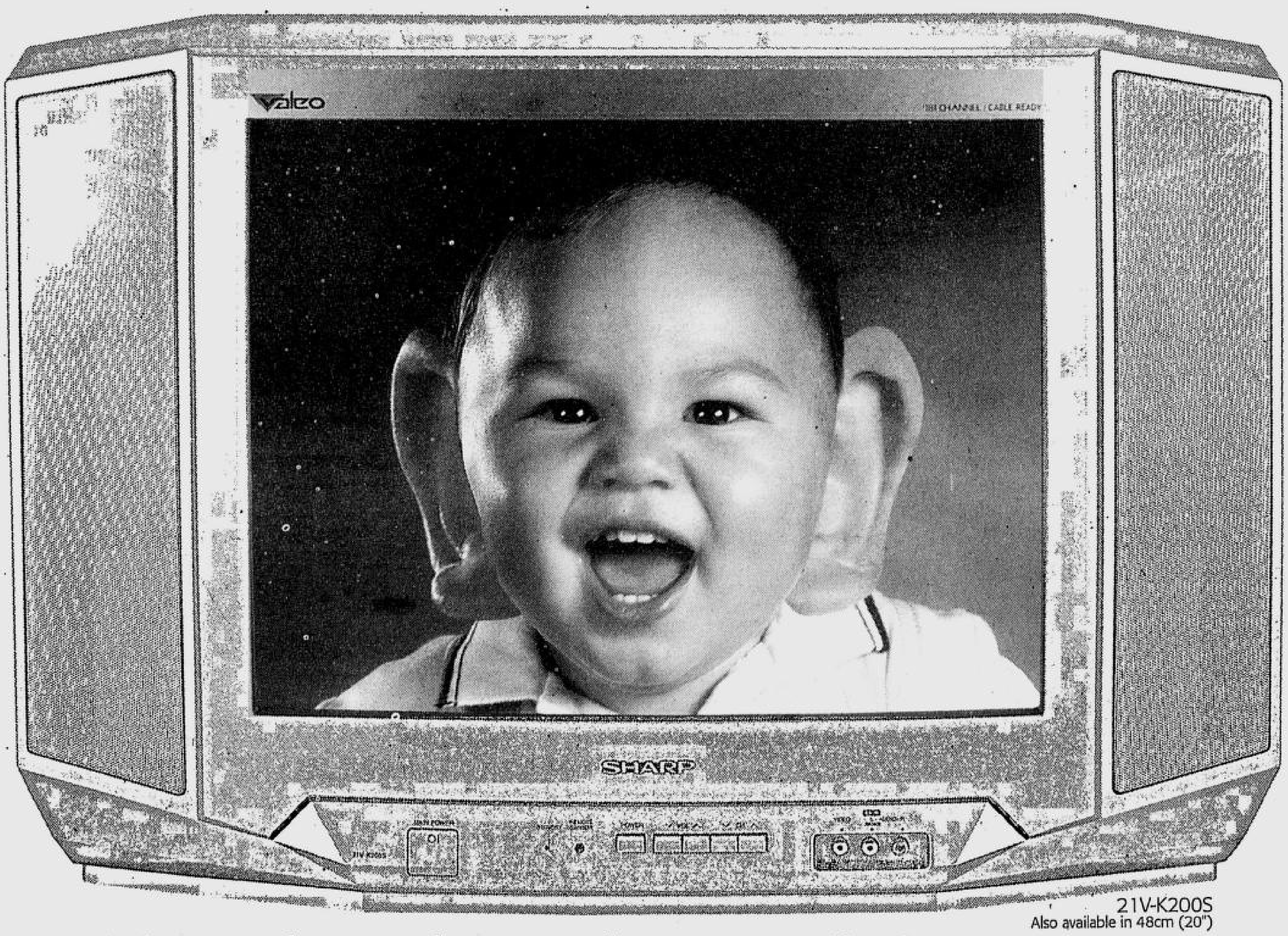

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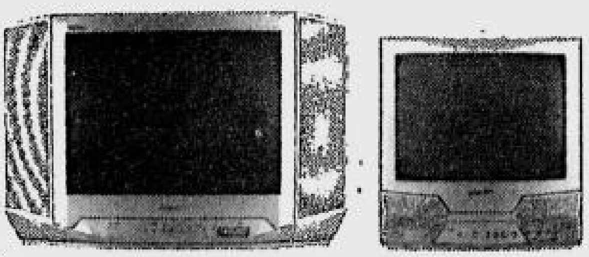

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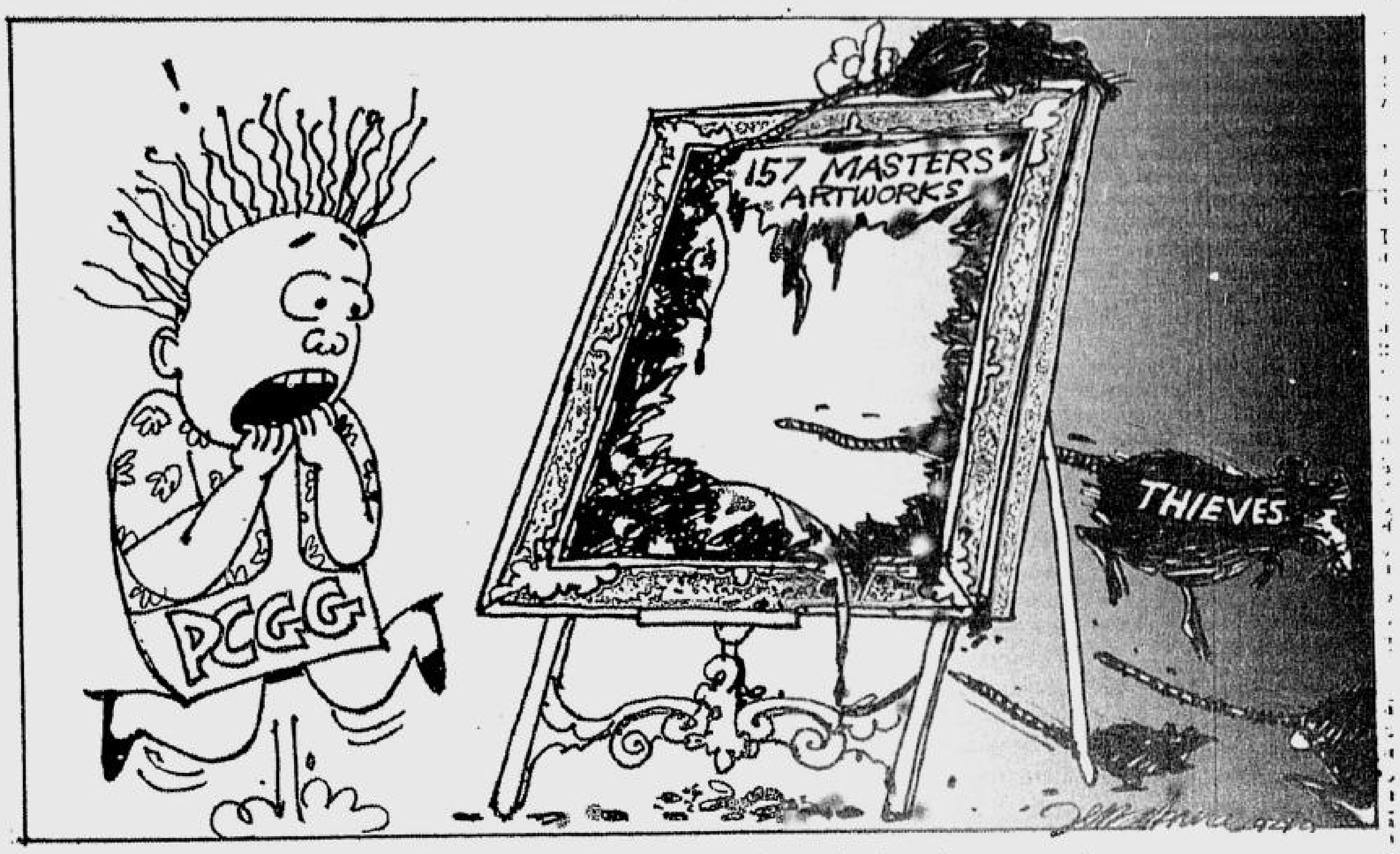

'It's up to you'

EDITORIAL

"THE CHARACTERISTICS of the American journalist consist in an open and coarse appeal to the passions of the populace; and he habitually abandons the principles of political science to assail the characters of individuals, to track them into private life, and disclose all their weaknesses and errors."

The incomparable De Tocqueville was describing the unbridled liberty of the press in the United States in the 1830s, but his words have a special resonance for media-watchers in the Philippines today. The role the Constitution has shaped for the media is very much in the American image: adversarial, but essential.

Last Friday, at a remarkable news briefing, and almost certainly without meaning to, the President placed this role under question. We don't mean to say that she is preparing to place restrictions on the constitutionally guaranteed rights of free speech and a free press. We only mean to say that, by venting her anger on media, by actually placing the burden of responsibility for the most recent round of coup rumors on the shoulders of the news organizations which reported the political intrigue, she implicitly asked why media should be adversarial or confrontational in the first place.

Asked whether she expected the coup rumors to die down, in the face of official disclaimers, she replied: "It's up to you, the media."

Asked about "observations" regarding her administration's perceived "vulnerability" to coup plots, she answered: "You're the one who can answer that. Where are these rumors coming from? *Di ba* they're printed in the media and spoken on the radio? So you're the one(s) who can answer that."

She went on to say: "You tell me why (the administration is vulnerable) because you're the ones talking about it. Otherwise, you tell me who said that and I'll ask the person why."

She answered other questions related to the coup rumors tersely, as if the responses were self-explanatory.

"Nothing can be more deplorable than this abuse of the powers of thought...It cannot be denied that the effects of this extreme license of the press tend indirectly to the maintenance of public order." This sounds like yet another direct quote from the President last Friday, but the passage is actually from "On Democracy in America."

De Tocqueville wrote: "I confess that I do not entertain that firm and complete attachment to the liberty of the press...and I approve of it more from a recollection of the evils it prevents than from a consideration of the advantages it ensures."

A less than ringing endorsement, but that is precisely the right, measured approach for democracies—the Philippine variety, at any rate—to take, regarding freedom of the press. Our own history teaches us that it is quite easy for this freedom to be taken for granted, and then to be taken away. We therefore have that advantage: we have seen what it means to live with a controlled press, to be stripped of what De Tocqueville called "the power which impels the circulation of political life."

Admittedly, many liberties have been taken in the name of a free press—pandering to populist causes, neglecting political science, tracking personal privacy. But the same restless spirit that drives a free press in this direction is the same spirit that allows the media "to detect the secret springs of political designs, and to summon the leaders of all parties to the bar of public opinion."

The President's exasperation with the media is understandable. She may have thought that the enemies of her administration, or indeed the enemies of democracy (perhaps not mutually exclusive subsets), used the media's own sense of purpose to publish the coup rumors, to make the intrigue a story worth reporting. But then in that case, the responsibility lies not with the used, but with the user.

"I shall not deny that in democratic countries newspapers frequently lead the citizens to launch together in very ill-digested schemes," De Tocqueville wrote; "but if there were no newspapers there would be no common activity. The evil which they produce is therefore much less than that which they cure.

Less probes and more legislation, please

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

CONGRESS is now on vacation, its members are traipsing all over the world at the people's expense, anthrax or no anthrax, but they don't deserve any vacation. After three months of daily sessions since July 23 for which the taxpayers must have spent many millions of pesos, what important bills have they passed? None.

The Senate wasted its time investigating Sen. Panfilo Lacson and First Gentleman Mike Arroyo (and giving perjury its stamp of approval) which, senators now admit, will lead nowhere. The House of Representatives was able to railroad the P789-billion budget before it adjourned but which the opposition claims is unconstitutional because the correct procedure was not followed.

And they were able to pass the budget only because Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez ordered the doors of the House closed after achieving a quorum so that no congressman could sneak out. The quorum was achieved at mid-afternoon of a session that was supposed to have started at 10 a.m. In fact, the House could not achieve a quorum since it opened last July so no work could be done, prompting the House leadership to use extraordinary measures, including coercion, to force attendance.

The proposed measures ranged from arresting truant congressmen to deducting the corresponding amounts from their salaries and allowances and—the unkindest cut in the opinion of many congressmen—from their pork barrel allocations. This last threat must have prompted enough congressmen to attend the last day of session.

For congressmen are not afraid of anything—not assassination or physical violence (they have enough bodyguards), not the anger of their constituents, not shame, not their conscience. They are afraid of only one thing: loss of money. And so the threat of Speaker Jose de Venecia to reduce their pork barrel allocations in proportion to their absences must have sent fear crawling up and down their spines—those who still have one.

This being the case, may I suggest a better alternative: pay the congressmen their salaries and allowances daily, after each session day. No attendance, no pay. The pork allocation will not be released to any congressman unless he has attended at least 90 percent of the sessions. Because many of them sneak out after the roll call, roll calls should be made before, in the middle of, and after the sessions.

Better still, insert a provision in the Omnibus Election Code banning a congressman from running for reelection if he has not attended at least 80 percent of the sessions. The logic is that if he wants to run for congressman, he should be able to fulfill its duties. If he is found wanting in a previous term, that means he is not qualified to be one.

* * *

Congressmen and senators are guilty of a worse sin: extortion. The crime would send ordinary citizens straight to jail but members of Congress have made it an art. The medium is the committee investigation. You have heard of the "Gang of Four" in the House which allegedly extorts money from target victims or they would be investigated by House committees with all the attendant bad publicity to the company or the individual. Members of the "gang" have angrily and vehemently denied the accusation but ask any insider in Congress and he will tell you that "extortion" does go on.

Members of Congress are supposed to enact legislation, not to investigate, but as the Senate has shown, they spend a great deal of time in investigations instead of lawmaking. The Senate wasted its whole three-month session on investigations without passing a single bill. But the taxpayers are paying them to be lawmakers, not to be investigators.

The excuse for the congressional investigations is that they are "in aid of legislation" so the lawmakers would be able to craft better legislations and correct defective ones. But I have yet to hear of better legislation crafted as a result of an investigation. Most of the time, after the legislators have milked it of all publicity, the investigation is forgotten. The committee chairpersons don't even bother to write a report. If, by some miracle, the probe ends in a recommendation to a government body, that body often disregards the recommendation and no follow-up is ever made by the Senate.

For example, in the Senate investigations of Lacson and Arroyo, perjury was committed right and left in the faces of the senators, but I don't hear anyone of them crafting a bill to strengthen the law against perjury. Or the law against extortion—by including members of Congress engaged in that profitable "probe for profit."

There are many laws that need to be enacted and many existing ones that need to be corrected but what are the "honorable" members of Congress doing? Engaged in activities that are ordinarily done by the police and by petty criminals.

For instance, the Urban Development and Housing Act, better known as "that stupid Lina law," need to be amended to make it achieve its purpose. It was supposed to solve the squatting problem "once and for all." Instead, it has made it worse since it was enacted. Even its principal sponsor, Joey Lina, could not enforce it while he was governor of Laguna and now as interior secretary. But no lawmaker is even planning to improve the law in spite of clear evidence that it is defective.

I am not saying that all congressional investigations should stop. Sometimes they're the only way to get action and maximum publicity on serious irregularities. But not at the expense of the activity for which legislators were elected and were being paid: to legislate laws.

* * *

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THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THERE is another variation of the *aswangs*, and that is coup rumors and threats of another round of "people power." They have a way of spreading like a virus during times of great stress and anxiety. And they are just about as substantial as *aswang* and UFO sightings.

Can a coup be carried out at this time? Well, the problem isn't mounting it, it is maintaining it. If you are a coup plotter, you won't think merely about how to grab power, you will think about how to keep it.

Grabbing power is a problem enough as it is. I personally cannot see how it can be done. A sea change has taken place since the late 1980s when coup attempts were a dime a dozen, above all in the thinking of military officers. I don't know how many of them still cling to the thought that they are eminently qualified to rule or co-rule the nation. Well, many probably still do, but they no longer mount coups, they run for public office. Some have become senators and congressmen, one has even become president. You may of course ask whether their winning public office has not produced the same results as a coup, but that is another story.

I mentioned in passing once before that the one thing that made me see this with Zen-like clarity was when I heard a provincial commander one Christmas sound off people about what they thought of his running for mayor in his town after he retired. Fifteen or even 10 years ago, that was unthinkable. That was a demotion of sorts, a provincial commander being more powerful than a mayor. But that was what drove home to me the reality of the return of civilian supremacy. That isn't just government rhetoric, that is something military officers have internalized. They no longer think of career advancements in terms of extra-constitutional adventures, they think of them in terms of very constitutional ones.

Quite apart from that, how on earth can anybody legitimize a coup at this time? For a coup to succeed, it must not only have the support of the military, it must have the recognition of the courts and the diplomatic community. Or never mind the diplomatic community, the Americans. That was what Marcos had, which was how his coup—which was what martial law was—prospered. He had the backing of the military, the courts and the Americans.

I do not know how any coup plotter, even if his coup succeeds, can persuade the Supreme Court of today to recognize the new government the way Marcos persuaded the Supreme Court of his day to recognize martial law. Hilario Davide Jr.'s credibility remains very high, but so does his integrity, which he displayed amply during the impeachment trial.

Far more importantly, the Americans are not going to recognize such a government. Even before Sept. 11, their policy was no longer to support tyrants, the way it was in the 1970s and 1980s. Their policy in fact over the last decade or so has been to fan pro-democracy stirrings in various parts of the world, which helps to advance their interests more. With their current campaign against terror, a campaign that calls on projecting a very high moral image, they are not going to embark on these adventurous sidelines. Besides, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has shown loyalty, or subservience, over and beyond the call of duty.

Though from a cynical viewpoint, prospective coup plotters may still find a small window of opportunity there. After all, the United States supported Pakistan's current leader, Pervez Mussharaf, who seized power in October last year. As his reward for being a US ally—despite antagonizing his Muslim constituents—the United States has completely legitimized his government, and thrown in massive aid and debt-rescheduling into the pot. Maybe if a prospective Filipino coup plotter promised to be more ardent in his support for the US war in Afghanistan? Or for a US base in the South?

I could be wrong of course. All this presupposes that coup plotters act with rational calculation. Which isn't always true in this country, and not just with coup plotters. Some people are just plain batty.

As to the threat of "Edsa IV," that is even battier. Its presupposition—which Time's Anthony Spaeth advanced when he blithely condemned "Edsa II" for being little more than mob rule—is that gathering a throng of Filipinos for the purpose of toppling a government is the easiest thing in the world. It is remarkable how anybody can think that when Filipinos cannot form an organization without splitting up after one faction's candidate fails to become its president. The Filipinos' reputation for disunity is more than legendary, it is true. The Filipinos in the United States in particular, as Spaeth would have known. That is what makes the phenomenon of "people power" even more miraculous than it already is, the fact that it happens at all. Because it happens under next to impossible odds.

That was what happened in Edsa I and II, that was even what happened in "Edsa III," though most people refuse to acknowledge the last as a legitimate form of "people power." Suffice it to say here that "Edsa III" is a complex phenomenon that required several ingredients for it to explode, among them the timing of Erap's arrest which was before the elections, the images of Erap being handcuffed and fingerprinted, the exploitation by the opposition of the event—all of which galvanized the poor, stoking them to a wrathful explosion. That is not easily duplicated, as those who threaten to duplicate it again and again are bound to realize. The way Cory Aquino herself did in her time. As she and Jaime Cardinal Sin discovered when they tried to summon "people power" power to keep the US bases and to thwart Juan Flavier's family planning program respectively, it is not a genie that materializes simply by rubbing a lamp.

But it's the season of *aswangs*. People may be forgiven for seeing a little too many of them.

* * *

Comments are welcome at dequiros@vasia.com

Villa-Abrille responds to charges vs him

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

BUENOS AIRES—At a breakfast at his residence in the chic Barrio del Parque area of Buenos Aires, where many diplomats reside, Philippine Ambassador Carlos Villa-Abrille sought to give his side to this columnist on the issue that some Manila media have brought up against him in connection with the Impsa issue. Impsa is the acronym for an Argentine power firm that has bagged the $470-million contract with the Philippine government to develop and rehabilitate the Caliraya power plant back home.

This issue had been controversial in deposed President Estrada's time and now apparently it has also hounded the Macapagal administration, after Justice Secretary Hernando Perez allegedly signed a government guarantee to back up the loan. This was something that his predecessor in the Estrada regime, Artemio Tuquero, was unable to do due to the political turmoil that surrounded Estrada's exit from power. The Impsa issue is frightfully complicated, and there are a number of side issues to it, among them the allegation raised by the political opposition that Perez signed the deal with the Argentine firm with undue haste—four days after he assumed office—because of an alleged $2 billion kickback which was allegedly deposited in a Hong Kong bank. Perez has denied these allegations and is reportedly preparing to debunk them during his scheduled appearance before the Commission on Appointments soon.

* * *

One of those implicated by the media back home is Ambassador Villa-Abrille who was among those instrumental in bringing Impsa investors to the Philippines. What was interesting was that some time in April 1997, a certain New York-based Filipino lawyer named Pompeyo Realuyo supposedly wrote a letter to then Foreign Secretary Domingo Siazon, raising allegations about the conduct of the Philippine ambassador. Earlier this month, four years later, these allegations were raised in the Manila media in connection with the Impsa controversy, namely, that Villa-Abrille had been in the payroll of Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez, when he was doing extensive business in South America, to the tune of $5,000 a month in retainer fees. Realuyo also alleged that the envoy freely helped himself to the inventory of items in Jimenez's US office, FutureTech, in the amount of $53,000, and that he was actively involved in Jimenez's scheme to develop and control the Punta del Este airport in Paraguay.

* * *

Villa-Abrille categorically denied to this columnist the allegations made by Realuyo, stressing that he didn't come this far in his long career as a Manila executive and subsequently President Ramos' ambassador to Buenos Aires, only to destroy it now as he exits from his post. The ambassador bristled with anger at the accusations which, he stressed, came from a character with a "shady reputation" as an extortionist of sorts. Villa-Abrille also stressed that Realuyo had admitted to the media that he had no personal knowledge of the allegations he had raised against the envoy, and that those were furnished to him by a former client of his, a certain Roberto Calingo, a former Jimenez employee, whom Realuyo had represented in an embezzlement case involving $800,000 filed against Calingo by Jimenez's firm. "As you can see," said Villa-Abrille, "the sources of those allegations were both polluted."

* * *

The envoy confessed, however, that his family was very much distressed by all these allegations against his integrity and reputation, especially his New York-based daughter who is suffering from a thyroid problem. Villa-Abrille said he himself suffered so much from it, causing his diabetes to shoot up. One thing that intrigued me, though, as he related the story, is his claim that Realuyo's letter to Siazon four years ago, citing all the allegations against him, was never forwarded to the envoy for his explanation. Villa-Abrille narrated that at some point Realuyo called him about those allegations, but friends advised him not to respond due to the lawyer's reputation for extortion. When supposed portions of Realuyo's letter came out in the media, however, Villa-Abrille said he tried to get a copy of the letter from the DFA so he could answer the allegations point by point, but no one there could locate it in the files. His conclusion is that either someone had filched the letter from the DFA files and gave it to the media to destroy him, or that there was never any such letter sent to Siazon. Villa-Abrille said that if the letter was filched from the files, then something is very wrong if it is used to cast aspersions on an ambassador.

The envoy said he recently wrote to Vice President and Foreign Secretary Tito Guingona asking his help ferret out the truth in the interest of fairness and justice to himself. He is still waiting for Guingona's reply.

* * *

When I met with him in Buenos Aires, the envoy appeared to have gotten used to being in the eye of the storm. As he prepares to wind up his diplomatic stint (due to replace him by February next year is Ambassador George Reyes), Villa-Abrille is consoled by the thought that his host country thinks very highly of his work as Philippine envoy. Recently, the Argentine parliament, in a joint resolution sponsored by the president of the Senate, Raul Branda, cited the Philippine envoy for his outstanding role in forging Asian unity. The commendatory resolution, which was seconded by Sen. Romero Perez Corriente, was presented to the Philippine envoy in elegant parchment at ceremonies held at parliament, and witnessed by former Argentine ambassadors to Manila and Villa-Abrille's *castillaloy* relatives residing in Buenos Aires (his father was born there, although the envoy himself grew up in Cavite). Villa-Abrille recalled that Argentine Vice President Mario Lozada told him that the honor tendered to him by parliament was not being given to just anyone, unlike the customary decoration for outgoing diplomats; the last recipient before him was the British ambassador.

* * *

Listening to the Philippine envoy, I remarked that he ought to just enjoy the winding down and the round of *despedida* parties that an outgoing ambassador will be subjected to, especially since, in his case, it has been nine years on the job and he is now the acting dean of the diplomatic corps. Looking back, Villa-Abrille recalled that he has seen three presidents come and go: President Estrada back home, and Carlos Menem of Argentina and Alberto Fujimori of Peru (the ambassador to Argentina is also accredited to Peru, although pretty soon we will have to have a separate mission in Peru as there is already a Peruvian ambassador in Manila). Villa-Abrille also recalled that in the nine years here he saw the inauguration of 15 presidents in South America. Time to move on.

Interact-Mindanao

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Fr.Eliseo R. Mercado Jr.

ONE of the first acts of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for Mindanao was the creation of Interact-Mindanao. The prime purpose of yet another bureaucracy for Mindanao is the so-called "rationalization" of so many government bureaucracies (Medco, Opamin, RDCs, administrative regions, Neda, SPDA, SPCPD, ARMM, MCC, PETF) running in circles and doing almost the same things (or doing nothing).

The Interact-Mindanao replaces the Estrada administration's Mindanao Coordinating Council and Presidential Executive Task Force for the Rehabilitation of Mindanao. It was concocted not only as a rationalization of the deadwood and overstaffed bureaucracies but also to accelerate the delivery of government programs both for the rehabilitation and development of Mindanao.

But for the Mindanaoans, the so-called Interact has remained intractable. The peoples of Mindanao got caught not only between conflicting blueprints of Mindanao development but also in the seeming turf war between and among bureaucracies, particularly the Neda and the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Regional Concerns.

As usual in any conflict, whether armed or ARMM-less, the victims and the casualties are hapless civilians. This time, the Mindanaoans.

Since January, the performance of Interact-Mindanao has been truly intractable at its best, and a complete standstill or paralysis at its worst. While the previous regime was rich in slogan and much acting with little action, the Macapagal administration is bereft of any slogan, no acting and no action.

President Macapagal, no doubt, is full of goodwill for Mindanao. She considers herself from Mindanao and she treasures the place and the peoples in Mindanao in her heart. I'm sure that her "cohorts" and "presidential advisers" are never lacking in word and ideas in "selling" to her Interact-Mindanao. It is a poor copy of its MCC predecessor.

During the early dialogues with the President, the appeal of Mindanaoans was to rationalize all the Mindanao bureaucracies, particularly Medco, Opamin, Neda, line agencies, SPCPD, SPDA, MCC, PETF, RDCs and administrative and autonomous regions. The President had to make a hard choice between the older and more sustainable structures like the RDCs under the leadership of Neda and the "on and off" structures like the Medco, Opamin and MCC.

In the midst of this man-made bureaucratic confusion, there is yet another bureaucracy looming around the corner. While still percolating in the minds of Manila-based "advisers," the name was already floated. It was supposed to be called Office for Special Concerns. It sounds and looks like the extension of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Special Concerns. As the saying goes…it acts and quacks like a duck!

In these times of crisis and confusion, Mindanaoans are fed up with bureaucracies that have become employment agencies for the administration's cronies and "fair-haired boys." There is no need of these bureaucracies that duplicate the services and programs of existing agencies or further slowing down the already snail-paced delivery of government program and services.

With all these bureaucrats still engaged in inter-agency wrangling and turf war, nothing substantial has been moving in Mindanao, except the fast movement of the Abu Sayyaf and their hostages with the Armed Forces of the Philippines always in "hot pursuit" hopefully of the real bandits and not of the "invented ones" and the prize money or the alleged percentage of the ransom.

Recently, the President appointed former Education Secretary Ricardo Gloria to be the "action man" of the "on and off" Interact-Mindanao. His appointment is believed to be good news in the midst of the paralysis and intractability of that superbureaucracy. Gloria has begun his Mindanao-wide consultation in Western and Central Mindanao including the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. Hopefully, these consultations will lead to real actions, and not to more words and promises.

If they have the Bomb, they will use it

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

THE UNITED STATES may never live down the shameful scars in human memory, that the names of the two Japanese cities, Hiroshima and Nagasaki, evoke. Thoughtful Americans whom I have personally known, are often bitterly divided themselves, over that twice-upon-a-time calling forth of the nuclear genie, to end a long and bitter war with an atomic one-two punch. In August 1945, two newly invented fission bombs, crude by today's standards, were dropped and detonated from airplanes, killing or sickening hundreds of thousands of men, women and children and utterly devastating the two Japanese cities. Japan sued for peace and World War II ended shortly thereafter.

Remarkably, America and Japan are today, the strongest of allies. It seems that somehow the American and Japanese people have completely transcended that earlier era of strife. Perhaps both sides came to accept the argument that a greater loss of life was at least avoided by the quick armistice, even if the pain was just as great. If Americans had come to hate the Japanese, or vice-versa, there was little trace of that after the war and none since. Hatred and resentment, it seems, are not among the mental habits of winners, of successful societies with vibrant economies, productive workers and inventive minds, such as the United States and Japan. It certainly jives with my close observation of numerous Americans, in their numberless variety and diversity, as being largely incapable of "biblical hatred."

These societies don't get mad, they get even. The Japanese and American peoples have literally become friends by becoming worthy competitors against each other in the "peaceful war" of international trade and commerce. And judging by their superlative showing in automobiles, electronics and telecommunications, the Japanese are not some kind of subjugated colony of the United States, since they have roundly defeated the Americans in these areas of competition.

The school of thought that preaches an historical resentment of the United States as a victimizer of the Philippines, ought to take a page from the Japanese manual in rebuilding shattered nations. Surely, we cannot blame the United States for everything that has happened in this country. Surely, we are responsible for some of our own screw-ups.

I am therefore amazed, as probably many Japanese are, when Hiroshima and Nagasaki are pressed into service in a litany of the United States' past sins, by almost anyone who has a quarrel to pick with the United States. They cry, what is 6,000 dead at Ground Zero in New York, compared to 60,000 vaporized near Ground Zero in Hiroshima? Our own 600,000 dead in the Philippine-American War usually makes it to this list of American mayhem, together with Vietnam, the Gulf War and support for Israel. Comparing body counts and taking disastrous events out of their historical contexts is really the bottom of the well of moral relativism, but I think some are attracted to the insidious idea that "the United States had it coming."

This idea is appalling, but it is seductive to many susceptible and sensitive Filipinos, whose intellectual passion for peace is accompanied by a visceral sympathy for the underdog. Afghanistan is the poorest nation in the world, the United States, the richest and most powerful. While the US forces dumbly rain down million-dollar smart bombs and munitions in front of worldwide television, the Afghan ack-ack response is feeble. They cannot afford a decent stock of tracer bullets to light up the night sky with images of "American aggression." Images of the inevitable civilian casualties of the blunt bombing campaign are of immense propaganda value and cannot but win the sympathy of whoever can afford to be neutral.

But if one accepts that the United States had Sept. 11 coming to it, how much more does it deserve to get? The simple message that I read in the rubble of the World Trade Center, is that there are people, like Osama bin Laden, who are willing "to push the button," people who would not hesitate to use atomic weapons if they could, to destroy the United States and the West, as they have vowed to. I am personally convinced that such people would be willing to detonate a thermonuclear device in a place like San Francisco or Los Angeles. If they have the Bomb, they will use it. They proved it in Manhattan. Civilization cannot afford such people, because civilization cannot survive such people. They must be stopped because they are a greater threat to human survival than the evils they decry.

The United States is not so impregnable after all, or indestructible. The onslaught of mailed anthrax spores shows the vulnerabilities of free, liberal democratic societies and portends that the main theater of this war may not be the deserts around Kandahar, but the cityscapes of urban America.

A variety of payloads can be delivered using the US Postal Service itself. What was the Pony Express has been turned, by a still unknown hand, into a delivery system for trojan horse letters, whose secret occupants are armies of microscopic death that are totally oblivious to the human motives that sent them to indiscriminately take human lives. This could be the end of the post office as we know it.

The military advantages of the West are not as overwhelming as one might first suppose. Bin Laden has created a whole new class of weapons with which to threaten civilian and military targets anywhere in the world. To be perfectly precise, he has demonstrated the use of a whole new class of weapons delivery systems. If the West has intercontinental ballistic missiles and Stealth bombers, he has secret cells of willing martyrs who can deliver a dose of mass destruction with equalizing terror and human stealth. Even if he were captured and neutralized soon, he has already crystallized in radical Islamic circles the possibility of defeating the world's superpower using terrorist means, an evil that will surely live on after him.

Figures of speech in news headlines

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

THE FRONT PAGE of the Oct. 22 issue of the INQUIRER was dominated by a colorful "family photo" of the leaders of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation clad in traditional Chinese formal wear.

The 19 government heads of state posed in front of a huge mock-up of the globe at Shanghai's Science and Technology Museum. Within that photo also appeared the day's banner headline, "Apec declares war on terror." Underneath the photo, however, was the qualifying subheadline, "But leaders won't back US military drive; Bush disappointed."

Striking as the picture may have been, a reader, Jerome Bayhon, reviewed the accompanying news report closely to find out if it matches the headline. He wrote: "The headline is deceiving because Apec condemned terrorism but did not declare war on it. To declare war is an exaggeration compared to condemnation.

"To declare war would mean committing resources and manpower to fight the enemy, but Apec is taking no such stand. If you had bothered to read your own story, it would be clear to you that an act of irresponsible journalism has been committed by your newspaper.

"Please refrain from this practice in the future. Don't be another William Randolph Hearst who shamelessly perpetrated sensationalism and tabloidism. To continue to do so would mean your newspaper is no better than Abante or Bulgar."

By way of backgrounder, Hearst owned during the 1900s a chain of newspapers in the United States that included the San Francisco Examiner, Chicago Examiner and Harper's Bazaar. He expanded the readership of his newspapers through the use of sensationalized headlines and lavish illustrations. He reportedly initiated the Spanish-American War in 1898, with the use of inflammatory words, faked atrocity stories and downright lies, to increase the sale of his newspapers.

Descriptive headline

When asked about the reader's complaint, a senior editor stated that the word "war" was used to reflect the stand taken by the Apec leaders, as spelled out in the communiqué they signed. In that statement, the leaders called for the suppression of terrorism and for bringing the terrorists to justice. Chinese President Jiang Zemin, the conference convenor, was even quoted to have said before the leaders, "We are fighting a battle against international terrorism."

No doubt, the words "condemn" or "denounce" could have been used to summarize the action agreed upon by the leaders in response to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. But space limitations prevented the editorial staff from using those words. Any of those two words would have occupied half the page already, leaving very little room for other words to give the idea the headline sought to convey to the readers.

The phrase "declaration of war" has acquired a particular meaning to the general reading public which means to do something to stop the commission of an act that is considered harmful or detrimental to the interests of certain parties.

In other words, the words in question were the most descriptive words the staff could think of to give the readers an immediate bird's-eye-view of one of the important, if not the most important, subjects discussed during the 9th Apec summit.

Evaluation

If the word being questioned by the reader was used in the course of an English composition class, the reader is right to complain that the phrase "declares war" is inappropriate. In the classroom, there is little need to improvise or economize in the use of words unless the teacher imposes a limit in the number of words that can be used.

With the Apec conference as the subject matter, a writer can simply quote whatever statements were made during the meeting to describe the stern warning the leaders wanted to send to the people behind the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

The same conditions, however, do not apply in the preparation of headlines, especially if the printing press is a stickler for the deadline to put the newspaper to bed. Editors or proofreaders have to contend with space limitations and the need to come up with catchy words or phrases that will capture the essence of a news report at one glance.

The headline could be a direct quote from the source of the news (like "Don't Destroy the PNP"), or a brief summary of the main points of an event (for example, "Heroic cop left 5 kids, housing loan"), or, when there is sufficient space, something amusing like "Nowhere man: It is as though I don't exist."

Whoever is tasked with the duty of crafting the headline for the front page, or any page for that matter, has to be imaginative in the use of words or familiar with the figures of speech that have gained acceptance or understanding by the readers. Of course, it is basic that accuracy and correct spelling should be given primary consideration in determining the wording of the headline that will encourage the readers to read further.

Headline-making calls for striking a balance between giving the reader a capsulized view of the news report within the space available without exaggerating or distorting the content of the news. And this act is not easy even for veteran journalists.

For these reasons, I think the Oct. 22 banner headline can pass muster. It cannot be faulted for exaggeration or deviating from the essence of the news report that it sought to highlight.

AFP report again

In last week's column ("News agency report on US military advisers"), I reserved judgment on whether the Agence France Press report about the presence of US military advisers during the week of Oct. 17 is accurate or not.

When I discussed the matter further with the editor in chief, she explained that her decision to come out with the disputed AFP report was influenced to a large extent by the extensive quotes of a high-ranking US Embassy official about the arrival of the military personnel.

She believed the news agency, compared to the INQUIRER's Mindanao news bureau, had better access to embassy officials and therefore can be trusted to have validated the report before releasing it for distribution to its client-newspapers. Besides, she thought the news agency had no reason to fabricate its story.

As things turned out later, with the INQUIRER itself reporting it, the US military advisers (or consultants or coordinators, as the national defense officials want them to be identified) arrived in the country late in the evening of Oct. 19 at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, not much earlier as reported by the news agency.

It is clear the AFP report in question was erroneous. In the face of the US Embassy's strong denial of its alleged statement that the military advisers were already in town and the INQUIRER's confirmed report of their actual arrival on Oct. 19, the inaccurate report was a big blow on the agency's otherwise splendid record.

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

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Alert on substandard steel products

LETTERS

THIS is regarding the proliferation of substandard steel products in the market. As the umbrella organization of all the steel manufacturing associations in the country, we confirm that indeed, substandard steel products are present in the market. Furthermore, that this condition has been so for some years now.

For some time now, we have been prodding the frontline government agencies such as the Bureau of Product Standards and the Department of Trade and Industry to keep up the pressure and apply the law against the manufacturers and retailers of these substandard products. But we also confirm that the efforts from these agencies have not been equal to the depth and extent of the problem.

Truly, they are handicapped by shortness of both personnel and funds. But there were cases when, for reasons we don't understand, penalties and sanctions were not applied even after retailers were caught flagrantly selling substandard products. In most cases, after the manufacturers of the substandard products were charged, the administrative procedures within their bureaucracies were allowed to take so long to the point that some of the cases were practically forgotten.

In those few cases where the complaint is successfully prosecuted, the penalty for the manufacturer is a fine, the maximum of which was P150,000. This amount can be easily covered by the profits from one or two days' production of substandard products. More recently, a violator resorted to getting a restraining order from a court and succeeded.

Recently, we have decided to help ourselves. Together with Trade and Industry Undersecretary Adrian Cristobal Jr., we have agreed to embark on a proactive campaign to punish these violators where it hurts: in the market. We will start by getting the Metals Industry Research and Development Center (MIRDC) to test all brands of steel bars and GI sheets in the market. From this, we will develop a positive list of those brands which passed the test. This list will be publicized as broadly as possible all over the country. Posters of this list will be placed in hardware stores nationwide.

To give this program more teeth, we have enlisted the active cooperation of the major professional and trade organizations which have already agreed to actively encourage their members to patronize only those products in the positive list.

Among those which have already joined us are the Philippine Contractors' Association (PCA), Philippine Institute of Civil Engineers (PICE), United Architects of the Philippines (UAP), Association of Structural Engineers of the Philippines (Asep) and others. We hope other associations and groups will join us since we intend to make this a sustained campaign.

We have scheduled to set this program into motion in mid-November—before the start of the construction season—with a formal signing of a Memorandum of Understanding among the associations named above. Tests by the MIRDC will follow. We expect the first list to be published by January 2002. Product testing by the MIRDC will be done at regular intervals, hopefully, every quarter.—**ALBERTO M. ALBANO, president, Philippine Iron & Steel Institute, Mechanical Workshop Bldg. I, MIRDC Compound, General Santos Avenue, Bicutan, Taguig, Metro Manila**

Ombudsman can't sue a private firm

THE NEWS item appearing on Page A5 in the INQUIRER saying that Ombudsman Aniano Desierto had "cleared" former President Fidel V. Ramos of any criminal liability in the so-called "Centennial expo scam" is not complete. What has not been reported in media is that former Expocorp president Teodoro Q. Peña and Asiakonstrukt president Edgardo H. Angeles, the two other respondents in the "Expo scam," have already been exonerated by Ombudsman Desierto. According to Desierto, there was "no evidence" showing that Angeles and Peña had conspired to violate existing laws, rules and regulations on the public bidding and award of government infrastructure projects.

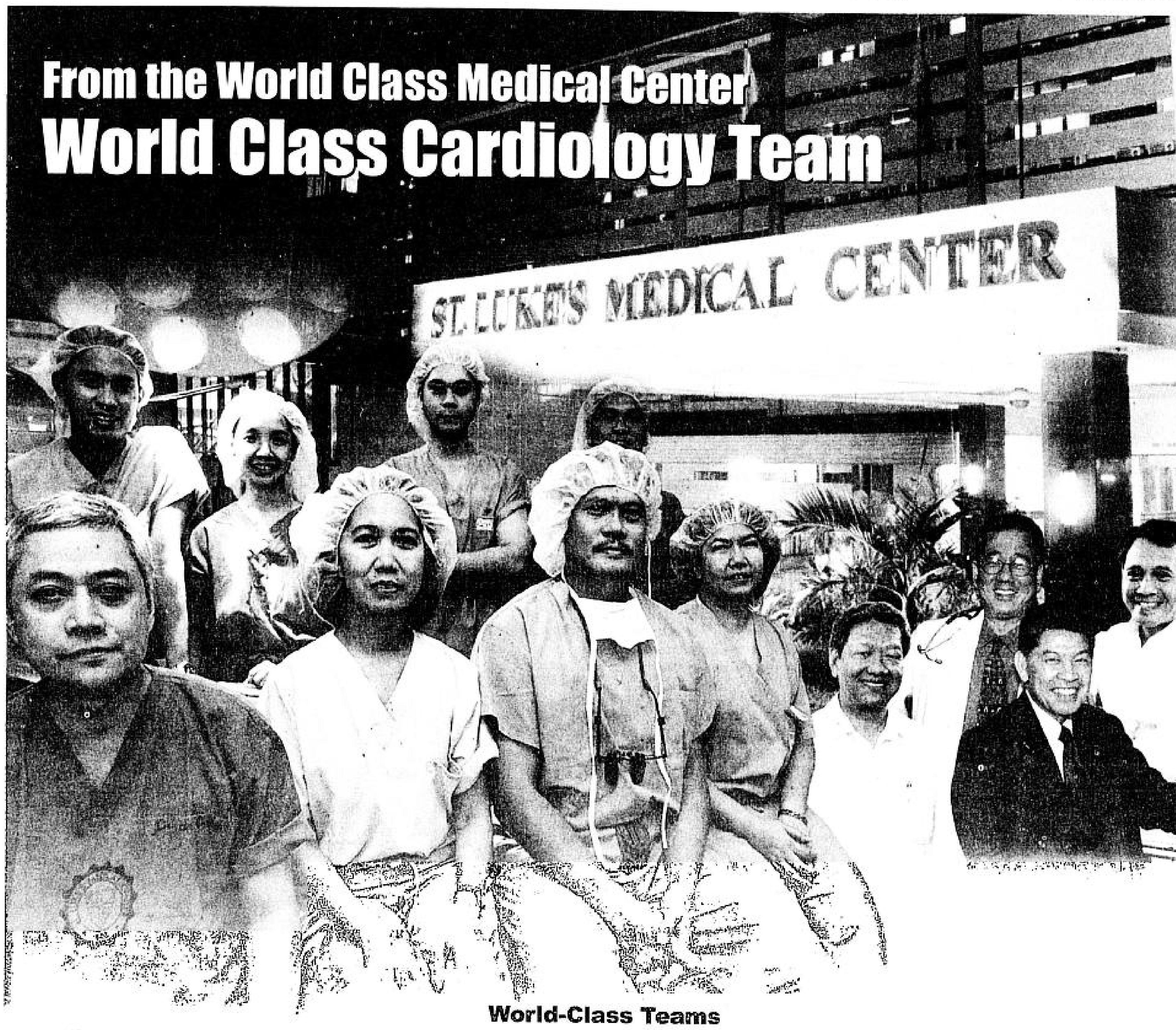
In the case of Angeles, Desierto specifically ruled that Angeles "cannot be blamed for striving to clinch favorable terms for his company." This finding automatically sweeps away all charges of conspiracy.

In my particular case, I chose to elevate the matter to the Supreme Court where I questioned the jurisdiction of the Ombudsman over a private corporation. My position is that Expocorp, which awarded the contract for the construction of the Freedom Ring, was a private corporation and therefore not under the jurisdiction of the Ombudsman.

In response to my petition, the Supreme Court issued a restraining order directing Desierto "to desist from filing any information" against me "before the Sandiganbayan or any court."

As a consequence of the malicious imputations leveled against me by the discredited and disgraced Estrada administration, I have filed a P20-million damage suit against all five members of the Saguisag Committee which issued the derogatory report. The case is now pending before the Quezon City regional trial court.

In the interest of truth and fairness and to give your readers a complete picture of the latest developments in this case, I earnestly ask that this letter be published in full.—**SALVADOR H. LAUREL, JMT Corporate Condominium, ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City**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GMA merely exercised constitutional functions

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has recently been criticized in certain sectors of the press firstly, for having joined the United States and the "Coalition Forces" in the struggle against global terrorism and secondly, for having appointed ambassadors not from the career service. Thus, under the first, she is branded as being engaged in the "making of a foreign policy quagmire" and in the second, as allegedly violating the foreign service law. It is hoped we have not forgotten that in both cases, the President was merely exercising her constitutional functions. As President she has to implement in "good faith" treaty obligations, the law of nations as well as UN Security Council Resolutions on terrorism. And in the appointment of ambassadors, she was also merely exercising another constitutional function "not derived from, nor limitable by Congress." Both acts are presumed for the national interests as perceived by the President.

We sympathize with the desire of deserving career foreign service officers to be also appointed ambassadors to professionalize the service. Nevertheless, under the Constitution and existing laws, the President could appoint as ambassador anybody, whether career or not, provided the appointee enjoys the full trust and confidence of the President and in her criteria the appointee would serve the best interests of the nation. The President is not obliged under the law to appoint career foreign service officers as ambassadors. Appointing ambassadors depends on the full discretion of the President subject only to confirmation by the Commission on Appointments.

We have full faith, however, that in the exercise of such discretion the President would not forget the career foreign service officers whom her late father, President Diosdado Macapagal, aimed to professionalize through the passage in 1952 of Republic Act 708, as amended by Republic Act 7157 in 1991.

Press freedom is essential in a democracy. In the exercise of such freedom it is hoped that criticism in the press would not make it appear that the President is being made a victim of some form of "journalistic terrorism" aimed at destroying her credibility and image but an exercise of "fair comment." Otherwise, we shall be confirming what Napoleon warned us many years ago: "Three hostile newspapers are to be feared than a thousand bayonets." But "fair comment" is essential for as Jefferson said: "When the press is free and every man able to read, all is safe."—**RODOLFO A. ARIZALA, former ambassador, Avda. Ricardo Lyon, 289 Apt. 13, Providencia, Santiago, Chile**

Pag-IBIG charges are reasonable

THIS is in response to the complaints of a letter-sender from Mandaue, whose name was withheld and whose letter was published last Oct. 13.

The writer had two complaints about the Pag-IBIG's housing loan program: the 5-percent mortgage administration fee (MAF) and the fixed 16-percent interest rate.

The MAF is an offshoot of the former mortgage origination fee charged to the Pag-IBIG by the banks at the time when loans were extended through originating banks. This fee has been carried over to cover the administration cost of handling the mortgage. However, being sensitive to the needs of our members, we plan to do away with the MAF. In fact, we will further liberalize the terms of the Pag-IBIG housing loan program to make it more accessible to our members.

Meanwhile, we believe that the interest rates of the Pag IBIG housing loans are reasonable. Our members should understand that these rates, including the 16-percent interest for loans amounting to P375,000 or more, have been in effect for years. These rates are fixed over the maximum payable period of 30 years. We are therefore, giving our members the opportunity to project their cash flow through the years, And although it may be true that present bank rates are comparatively lower, we all know that they are not fixed and may change anytime.

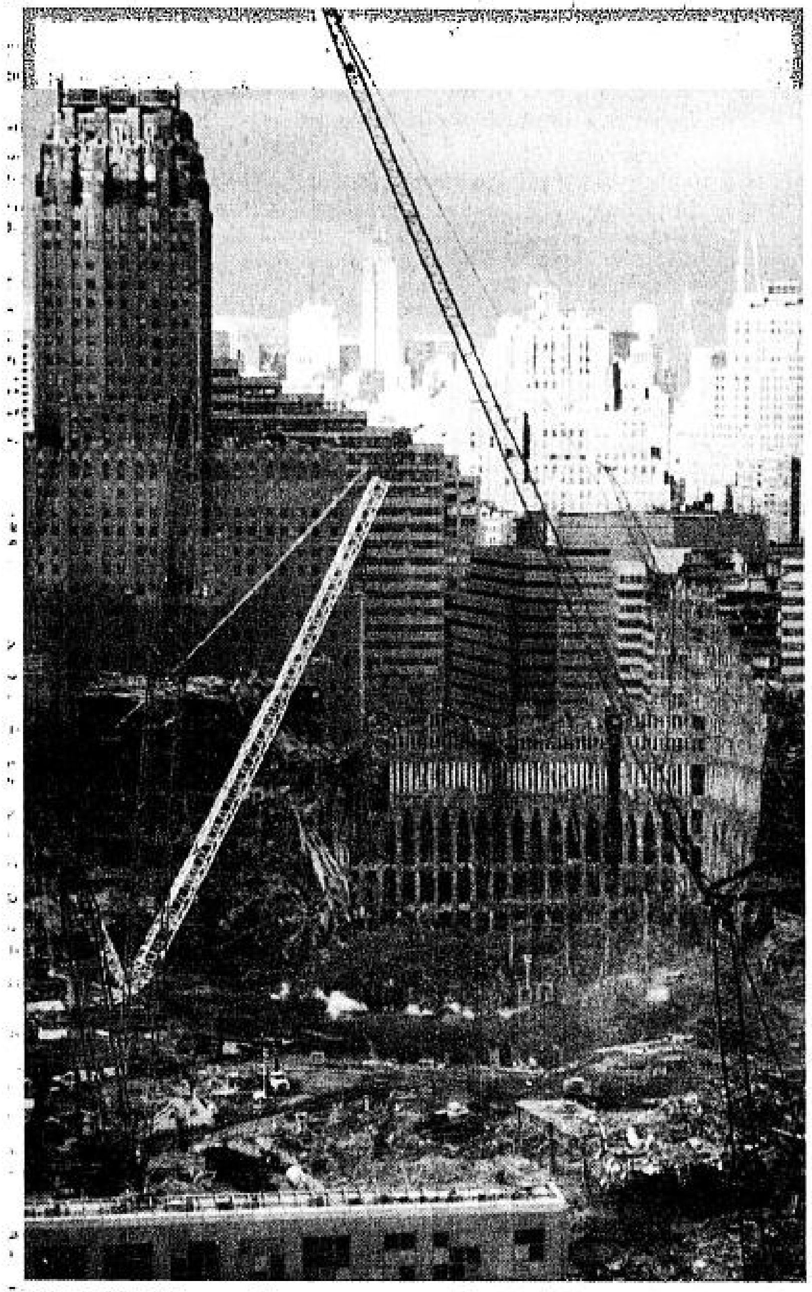
Finally, we take exception to the sweeping conclusions made by the letter-writer implying that Pag-IBIG officers (particularly the government appointees) are "enriching themselves at the expense of ordinary members." Our officers are not receiving "fat salaries." The Pag-IBIG is, in fact, subject to the Salary Standardization Law. And despite our "skinny" salaries, we continue to stand by our standard of honest, good and efficient service.

Rest assured that the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council and concurrent chair of the Pag-IBIG Board of Trustees Mike T. Defensor is on top of the National Housing Program and is presently reviewing the housing policies and guidelines of the different shelter agencies, including the Pag-IBIG, to make them more responsive to the needs of the Filipinos.—**MANUEL C. CRISOSTOMO, president and chief executive officer, Home Development Mutual Fund, 8/F Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City**

The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

Anthrax probe looks at local terrorists



WHERE it all began: The sun sets over New York City as clearing activity winds down at the site of the World Trade Center disaster Oct. 27. All work and rescue operations stopped at sunset to make way for preparations for Sunday's World Trade Family Memorial service. AP

WASHINGTON—Stumped by a string of germ attacks that have killed three Americans so far, investigators are wondering if homegrown extremists, not international terrorists, are behind the deaths by mail.

The puzzling bioterror scare has left nearly a dozen other Americans infected with anthrax, forced the shutdown of government offices and left the postal system in disarray, with no delivery in some Washington neighborhoods.

Investigators, certain that the anthrax used to taint letters to lawmakers and media organizations was produced in laboratories, are trying to determine who manufactured it, saying it could even have been made in the United States.

The Washington Post on Saturday quoted unnamed intelligence officials saying they suspected domestic extremists were responsible for the bioterror attacks, but cited no hard evidence.

FBI and other investigators are looking at US-based right-wing hate groups, as well as US residents sympathetic to Islamic extremists, the daily said.

"Nothing seems to fit with an overseas terrorist type operation," an intelligence official told the Post.

A spokeswoman for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) declined to comment on the report.

The US Postal Service faced mounting fears about the safety of the country's mail, with more post offices closed for site testing and thousands of postal workers receiving preventive treatment for anthrax exposure.

The New York Medical Examiner's office has opened an investigation into whether anthrax caused the death earlier this month of a local postal worker, according to news reports early Sunday.

The medical examiner's office would review the circumstances surrounding the death of postal worker Laura Jones, who died on Oct. 10 of what was determined at the time to be natural causes.

Meanwhile, the post office in Princeton, New Jersey has been closed following a preliminary positive test for anthrax, NJ health officials announced. Another office in southwest Washington was closed on Friday.

More than 12,000 postal workers in the metropolitan Washington and New York areas have been tested and/or are receiving treatment as a precaution, the USPS said on its website.

Postal inspectors have arrested 14 individuals for anthrax-related hoaxes and were investigating 13 additional cases. A total of some 5,500 incidents have been reported, it said. *AFP*

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Mahathir again urges halt to bombings

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad has renewed a call on the United States and its allies to stop the bombing of Afghanistan, a newspaper reported Sunday.

"I hope they will stop immediately, whether it is in the month of Ramadan or not," the Sunday Star quoted Mahathir as telling reporters after returning from a holiday in South Korea.

The Muslim holy month of Ramadan is due to start in mid-November.

Mahathir said Malaysia was not the only country to hold such a view, adding that Russia too believed diplomatic initiatives should be used to resolve the conflict.

"Until now I have not received any reports to confirm that al-Qaida members have been killed in the attacks," Mahathir said of the group headed by Osama bin Laden, accused by Washington of masterminding the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States.

"That is why I don't agree with the war. This is not the way to solve it," he said.

Mahathir has condemned the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States but also criticized the retaliation in Afghanistan, saying it will kill innocent people without stamping out terrorism.

Newspapers in Malaysia, a moderate Muslim nation, are filled daily with pictures of sick, frightened and injured Afghan children, and medical teams have left to help minister to them in camps in Pakistan.

Asked whether it was time for the United States to change its foreign policy, Mahathir said: "It should give consideration to the problem faced by the Palestinians and other Muslim nations."

Commenting on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, he said the media portrayed Israel as having retaliated against the Palestinians when in fact more Palestinians were being killed than Israelis. *AFP*

Iraq says it is expecting US, UK attack

LONDON—Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz was quoted on Saturday as saying he expected the United States and Britain to launch attacks on Iraq.

In an interview with Britain's Sunday Telegraph newspaper conducted in Baghdad, Aziz said that Washington and London wanted to use the "war against terrorism" as an excuse to oust President Saddam Hussein.

"We know they are preparing for such an attack," Aziz said.

"We are watching what is being said and what is being done in the United States and Britain and we know that it is just a matter of time before such an attack."

US and British officials have said operations may not be restricted to Afghanistan in future but have avoided saying that Iraq or any other specific countries could become targets.

US and British aircraft occasionally strike targets in Iraq while policing "no-fly zones" in the north and south of the country that were set up after the 1991 Gulf War to protect ethnic minorities from Baghdad's air force.

The no-fly zones, as well as economic sanctions strongly defended by the United States and Britain, have drawn criticism not only from the Arab world but also from Russia and some of the other allies now engaged in the US-led coalition.

Aziz said that the US and British plans involved strikes against 300 targets in Iraq but that such an assault would be a "grave mistake" and would cause their carefully constructed international coalition against terrorism to collapse.

"Many countries are not going to tolerate that because they know that this is unjust and is sheer aggression," he told the Sunday Telegraph.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair has assured partners in the US-led coalition that the war on terror would not spread to any country beyond Afghanistan without "absolute evidence" that the country sponsored terrorism and then only after full consultation with other allies.

A spokeswoman at Blair's Downing Street office said there had been no change in this position: "We have always made it clear that the focus of the military campaign is Afghanistan," she told Reuters. *Reuters*

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Inter-Korea rapprochement hits new snag

SEOUL—Inter-Korean rapprochement came to a fresh crisis Sunday after North Korea refused to ease its hardline stance towards South Korea and its patron, the United States.

The limbo came a month after the Stalinist North resumed inter-Korean talks, ending a six-month freeze triggered by a review of US policy toward Pyongyang.

"Inter-Korean ministerial talks have been called off," said a South Korean unification ministry official. The talks were to be held in Pyongyang from Sunday.

By Sunday, the two sides had exchanged eight messages through a border hotline in a tug of war over the venues of their talks, with the North insisting on its scenic Mount Kumgang.

Last month Pyongyang put the faltering inter-Korean peace process back on track, but the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States have led to fresh strains in inter-Korean relations.

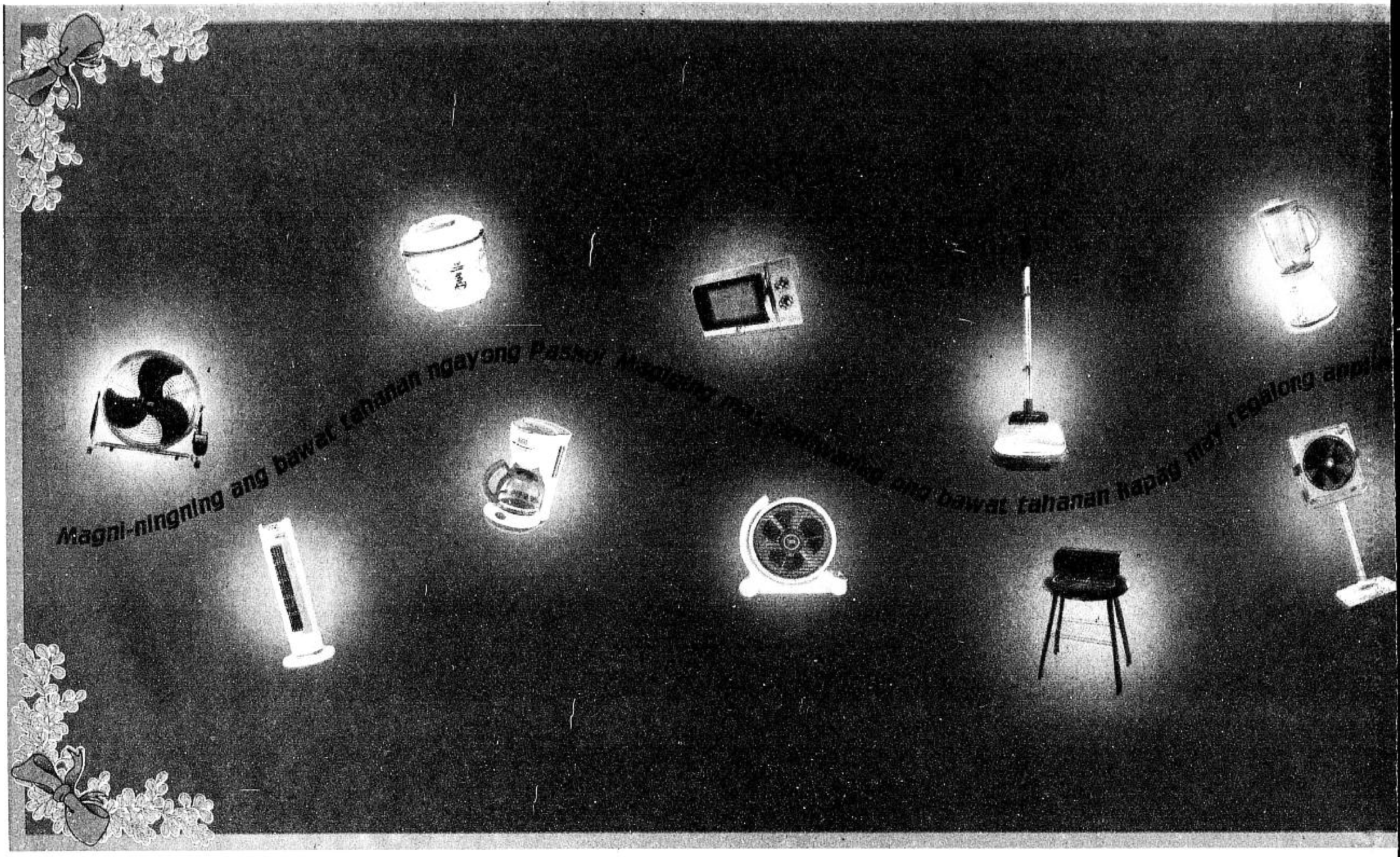
The North has already cancelled a scheduled reunion of families torn apart by the 1950-53 Korean War, reacting nervously to the US-led campaign against terrorism.

The North, still on a US list of states backing terrorism, has also launched a rhetorical attack on Bush, blasting him for creating a "war-like" situation on the Korean peninsula.

In June, Bush offered to resume talks with Pyongyang, urging it to reduce conventional forces and halt the spread of weapons of mass destruction.

The North, however, rejected a fresh US call for dialogue, demanding an apology for "reckless" remarks made by Bush about its supreme leader Kim Jong-Il.

Ahead of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Shanghai, Bush criticized Kim for not opening up his "hermit" state further to talks and aid. *AFP*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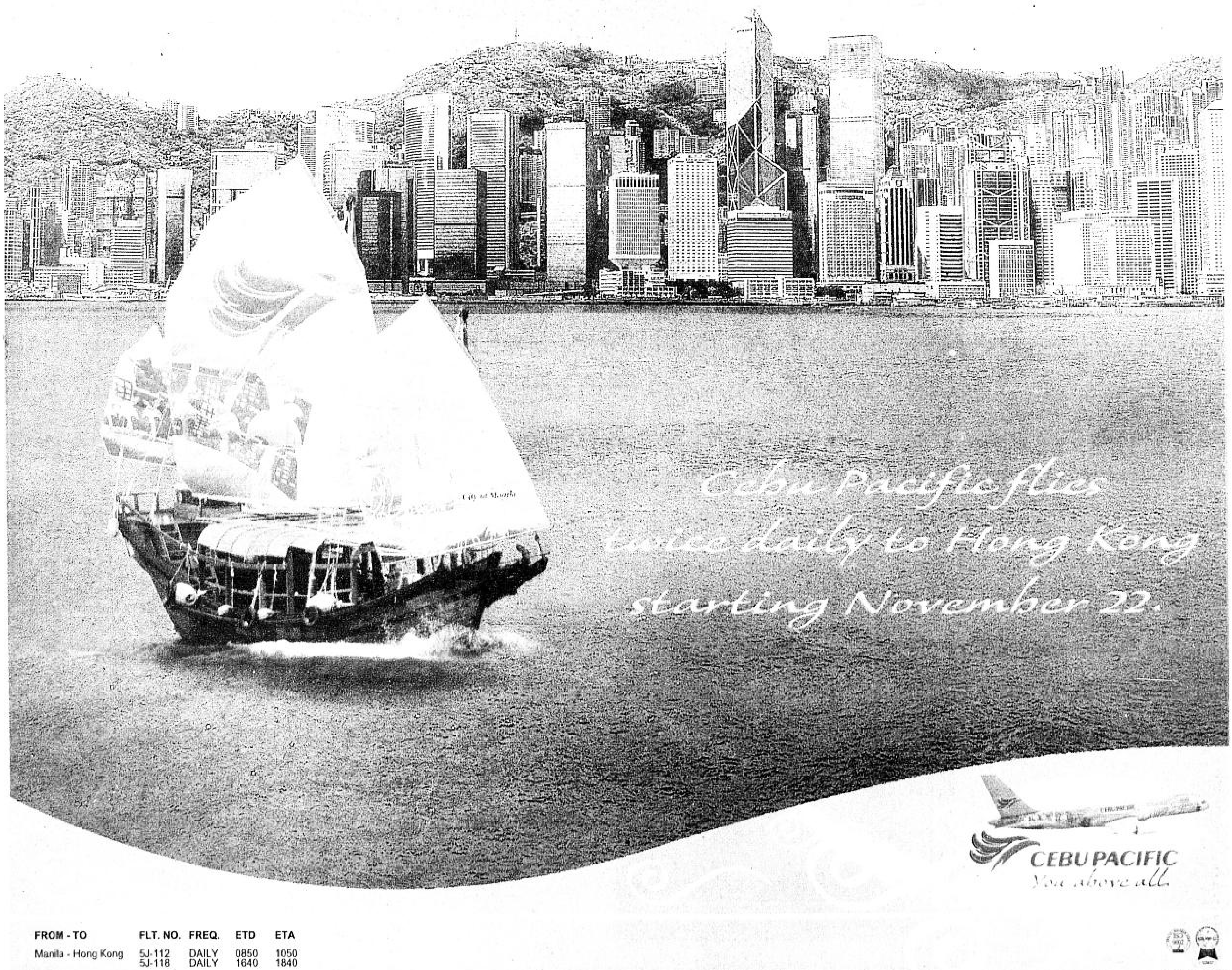
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US to sell missiles to Taiwan

TAIPEI—The United States has agreed to sell Taiwan 360 Javelin anti-tank missiles and related equipment to enhance the island's anti-landing capability, a US Department of Defense agency said in a statement Saturday.

The arms sale, expected to be approved by the US Congress, includes 40 Javelin command launch units, 360 missile rounds, as well as simulators and support equipment and services, the Defense Security Cooperation Agency said.

It said the systems, costing US$51 million, would give Taiwan a "strong anti-landing capability and increase interoperability with US forces" while enhancing the island's medium-range anti-tank capability.

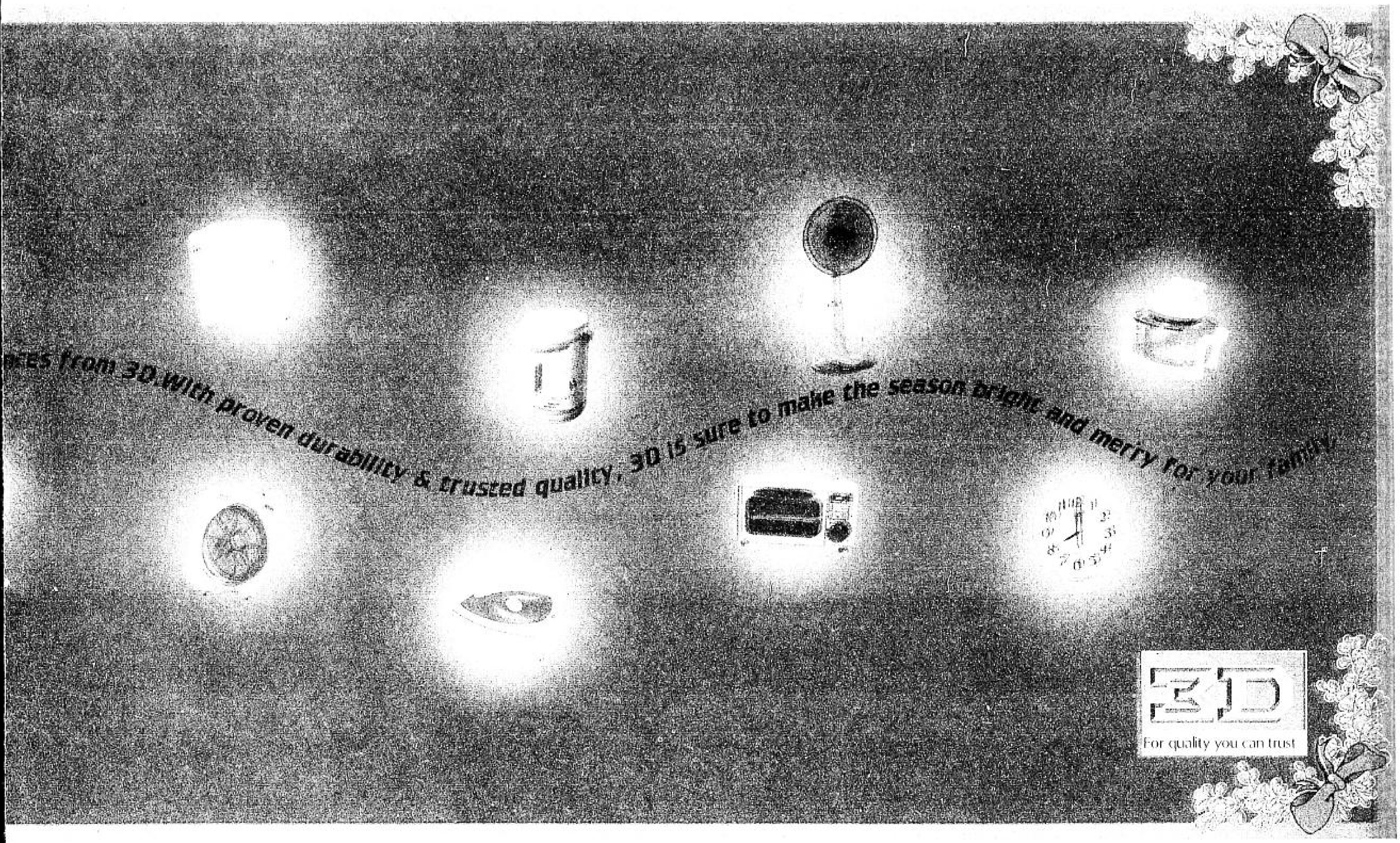
Critics here, however, said the sale would be a waste of scant military budget, as the Taiwanese Army already has US-made TOW anti-tank missiles, as well as French-made Apilas, Swedish-made AT-4 and locally made rockets.

With a maximum range of 2,500 meters (8,250 feet), the Javelin is equipped with an infrared imaging system and a fire-and-forget guided missile.

The main contractor would be Javelin Joint Venture—Raytheon and Lockheed Martin—of Orlando, Florida.

Washington and Taipei have forged closer ties after George Bush was sworn in as the US president last year.

Bush in April approved the sale of eight diesel submarines, four Kidd-class destroyers and 12 P-3C submarine-hunting aircraft in Washington's most comprehensive arms package to Taipei since 1992, although the United States has itself stopped building conventional submarines. AFP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CITIBANK

China-Americas ancient link claimed

BEIJING—As Song Baozhong explains the intricacies of a 3,000-year-old Mexican inscription, his casual manner belies his conviction that a complete revision of world history is needed.

"These are Chinese characters," says the 64-year-old scholar, his longish locks and broad-brimmed hat giving him a mildly eccentric air.

"That shows direct ties existed between ancient China and the Americas, because back then people couldn't just send a fax with the characters, they had to go themselves," he says.

Song, a Beijing resident, is a member of a small, determined community of amateur and professional historians who have set out to prove America's pre-Colombian cultures were fertilized by Chinese travelers.

They are especially intrigued by a possible trans-Pacific connection with the Mayans, whose civilization rose, flourished and then faded in what is now Mexico from 2000 BC until the arrival of the Europeans.

Their theories are based both on historical records and archeological evidence, which they say show compelling similarities between early Chinese and American Indian cultures.

Some of these artifacts are currently touring China as part of an exhibition on the ancient Mayans, including six miniature jade tablets with writing that Song construes as being Chinese.

What really excites Song is the suggestion that the writing forms an early rendition of a well-known poem from a Chinese classic, the "Book of Odes" from the first millennium BC.

"Science is still awaiting the final, irrefutable evidence," said Song, the co-author of a book published in 1992, entitled "Chinese Ancestors Opened up America."

"But as for myself, after 20 years of research, I've come to the conclusion that it was Chinese who discovered the Americas, and that subsequently there were frequent contacts," he said.

Theories like these do not go undisputed in the academic world, and many researchers find them plain ridiculous. *AFP*

Israel puts off West Bank withdrawal due to violence

JERUSALEM—Defying intense US pressure, Israel suspended a troop pullout from Bethlehem and a neighboring Palestinian-ruled town in the West Bank because of violence that raged into early Sunday.

Israel's last-minute decision to remain in the towns dealt a blow to US efforts to cement Arab and Islamic support for their operation in Afghanistan and an anti-terror coalition formed after the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States.

The Palestinian Authority and its leader, Yasser Arafat, said Israel's decision not to withdraw, which would also put off a pullout from in and around five other Palestinian-ruled towns, proved it wanted to escalate a year of violence.

"The pullback has been suspended as a result of continuous Palestinian fire, repeated shooting throughout the day and lack of implementation of the agreement reached with Palestinian security forces in Beit Jala and Bethlehem," a senior official in Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's office told Reuters.

The delay went against a deal Israel and the Palestinians reached at security talks on Friday for Israeli forces to withdraw from Bethlehem and neighboring Beit Jala, which Israel vowed to carry out if Palestinians maintained quiet.

Arafat told reporters after meeting European diplomats in Gaza that Israel's decision to call off the withdrawal was "part of their policy to not achieve real peace."

The Palestinian Authority condemned the decision in an official statement, saying the "dangerous and sudden position of the Israeli government makes us sure of Israel's insistence to increase its escalation policy and destroy all international efforts to stop Israeli aggression."

Fierce fighting erupted in and around Bethlehem and near Palestinian-ruled Nablus on Saturday just hours before Israel was expected to begin the first phase of a staged withdrawal from Palestinian areas it occupied last week.

Israel seized the areas after Palestinian assassins killed Tourism Minister Rehavam Zeevi on Oct. 17. The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) said it killed Zeevi to avenge Israel's assassination of its leader in August.

It appeared unlikely that a meeting scheduled for Sunday between security officials, intended to focus on a wider Israeli pullout from the other Palestinian areas, or the redeployments themselves, would go ahead.

"There will be no other pullback if this Beit Jala-Bethlehem one doesn't go through. This is the test case for all the others," Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's spokesperson Raanan Gissin said.

A senior Israeli security source told Reuters that Israel would re-examine its decision only "if Palestinians keep the calm and their commitments."

Israel Radio quoted Israeli Army officials as saying troops could withdraw on Sunday if quiet prevailed overnight—though there was no sign that it would. *Reuters*

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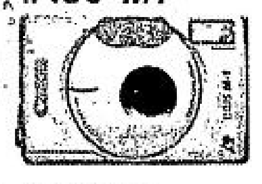
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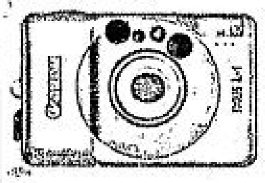
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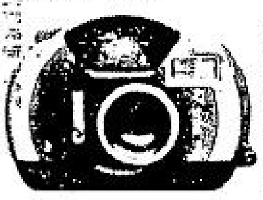
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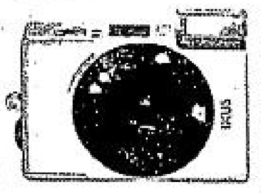
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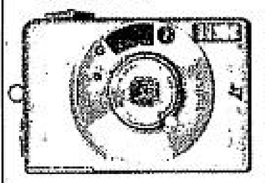
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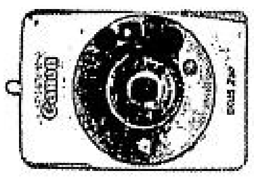
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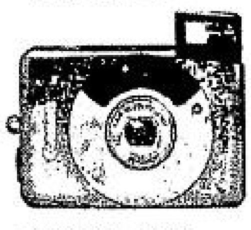
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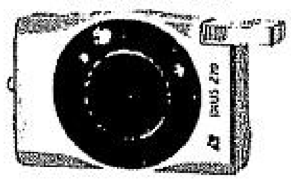
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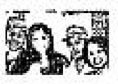
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Iloilo employers offer ₱5 wage hike

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Employers here are offering a P5 daily wage increase even as workers clamor for more to cope with the effects of the deepening world economic crisis.

The offer by the Iloilo Multi-Sectoral Business Organization Inc. (IMSBOI), an umbrella group of Iloilo-based retailers, hardware merchants, and operators of hotels, restaurants and resorts, was met with resistance by labor groups here.

Rosana Prado, national director of the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP), said the P30 increase in emergency cost of living allowance granted in the National Capital Region was acceptable to them.

"We understand the economic situation and we will accept an increase lower than what we petitioned (for) as long as (the) increase is not P5," he said.

Three labor unions affiliated with the TUCP earlier filed before the regional wage board a petition for a P50 increase in the minimum wage for around 2.35 million workers in the private sector in Western Visayas.

The militant Kilusang Mayo Uno did not file any petition for an increase before the regional wage board. Instead, they demanded a legislated wage increase of P125 daily.

Aurelio Bosque, KMU spokesperson in Panay, said a P125 increase would not significantly increase the cost of production because workers' wages and compensation comprise only 10 percent of an establishment's total production cost, citing a study of the Ibon Foundation, an independent research think-tank.

The regional wage board in Western Visayas is currently deliberating on a new wage order in the region after a series of public consultations held in August and last month, said lawyer Calixto Valaquio, regional wage board secretary.

At present, the minimum daily wage in Western Visayas is P170 after the wage board ordered a P10-increase in daily wages last November.

Ramon Cua Locsin, executive vice president of the Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce in Iloilo, which includes owners of hardware and small grocery stores, however, said employers could not afford to grant a higher increase because of the economic crisis.

"Many stores are closing down and laying off workers," Locsin told the INQUIRER.

He said an increase in labor cost would also drive up the cost of production resulting in higher prices of commodities.

Lawyer Gil Marie Alba, spokesperson of the IMSBOI, said the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States made it more difficult to grant substantial wage increase.

"We are going into more difficult times. We need to balance the business aspect with compassion to our workers," Alba said.

Alba added a legislated increase demanded by the militant workers groups could lead to layoffs. He cited the case of hotels here where occupancy has only been around 20 percent in the past months. "Boutiques in malls have been closing down only to open under new ownerships."

"Ilonggos should help each other, both employers and workers," Alba said.

Rowena Regalado, executive director of the Iloilo Business Club, said the P10 daily wage hike granted last year was already high for many of the group's members. The IBC is composed of at least 90 senior executives of business firms here.

"The world crisis has aggravated our situation," Regalado said. She said in the garment industry, Filipino contractors have been forced to go abroad to capture contracts while previously it was the importers who approached Filipino garment manufacturers.

"We hope we can overcome the problem and prevent layoffs. We should patronize Filipino products to help our businesses and workers," Regalado said.

Gov't execs, traders hit new PPA order

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Government officials and businessmen here have strongly objected to a Philippine Ports Authority order requiring the loading and unloading of all rice and sugar shipments only at government ports to prevent rice smuggling.

They warned that the cost of sugar and rice could rise because of added cost of transporting the commodities to the city since there is no government port within Bacolod City, they said.

There are only three government ports in Negros Occidental located in Pulupandan town, some 30 kilometers south of Bacolod; in San Carlos City, about 140 km north of here; and in Danao, about 80 km north of Bacolod.

Bacolod City Councilor Jude Thaddeus Sayson said the PPA order would be effective only where there are government-owned ports.

The two major ports in Bacolod City are owned by the Negros Navigation and the Bacolod Real Estate Development Corp.

Negros Occidental provincial board member Jesus Colmenares also pointed out that the government ports in the province have inadequate storage facilities, hauling trucks and manpower.

Sayson and Colmenares were among the local officials and local businessmen who spoke against the PPA order in a meeting here Friday with the Presidential Assistant for Western Visayas.

Both the Bacolod City council and the Negros Occidental provincial board have earlier passed separate resolutions opposing the Sept. 17 order issued by Benjamin Cecilio, PPA's assistant general manager for operation.

Cecilio said the PPA decided that the loading and unloading of sugar and rice are allowed only in government ports because of the rampant movement and delivery of illegal rice and sugar through private ports.

National Food Authority-Negros general manager Vilma Villa promised Negros officials to bring their concern to the attention of Malacañang. She said the order was "probably a knee-jerk government overreaction to the numerous complaints of smuggling."

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The Eastern section of Luzon and Southern Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

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Baguio	Partly Cloudy	HI 26° Lo 15°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 20°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	HI 34° Lo 22°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 22°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 21°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 24°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°
Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 25°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 27°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	HI 34° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 23°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/10/29/01

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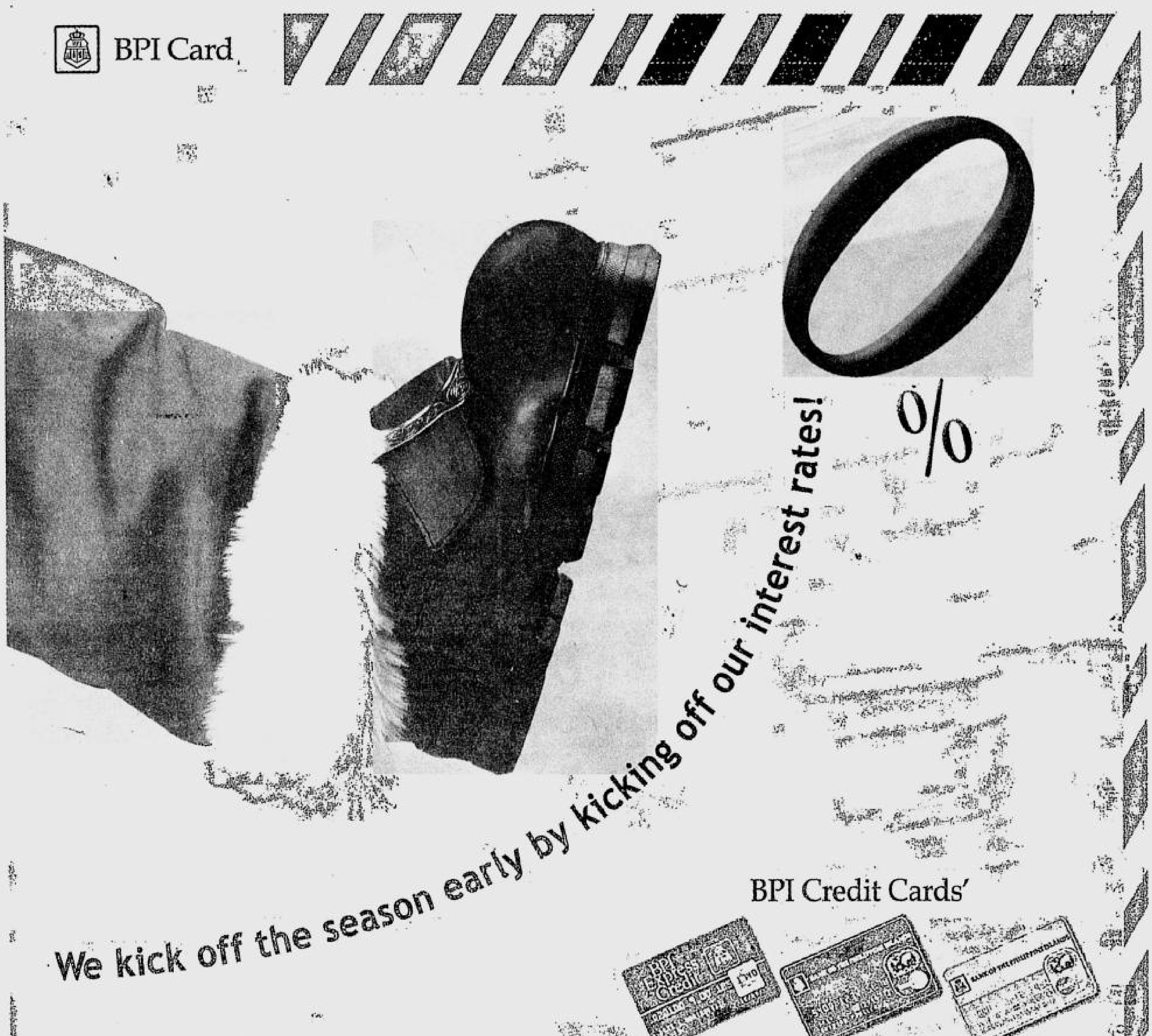
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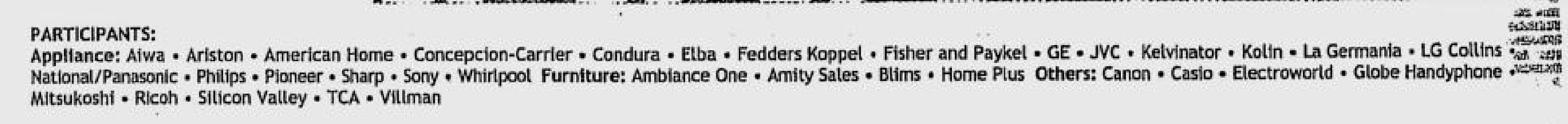

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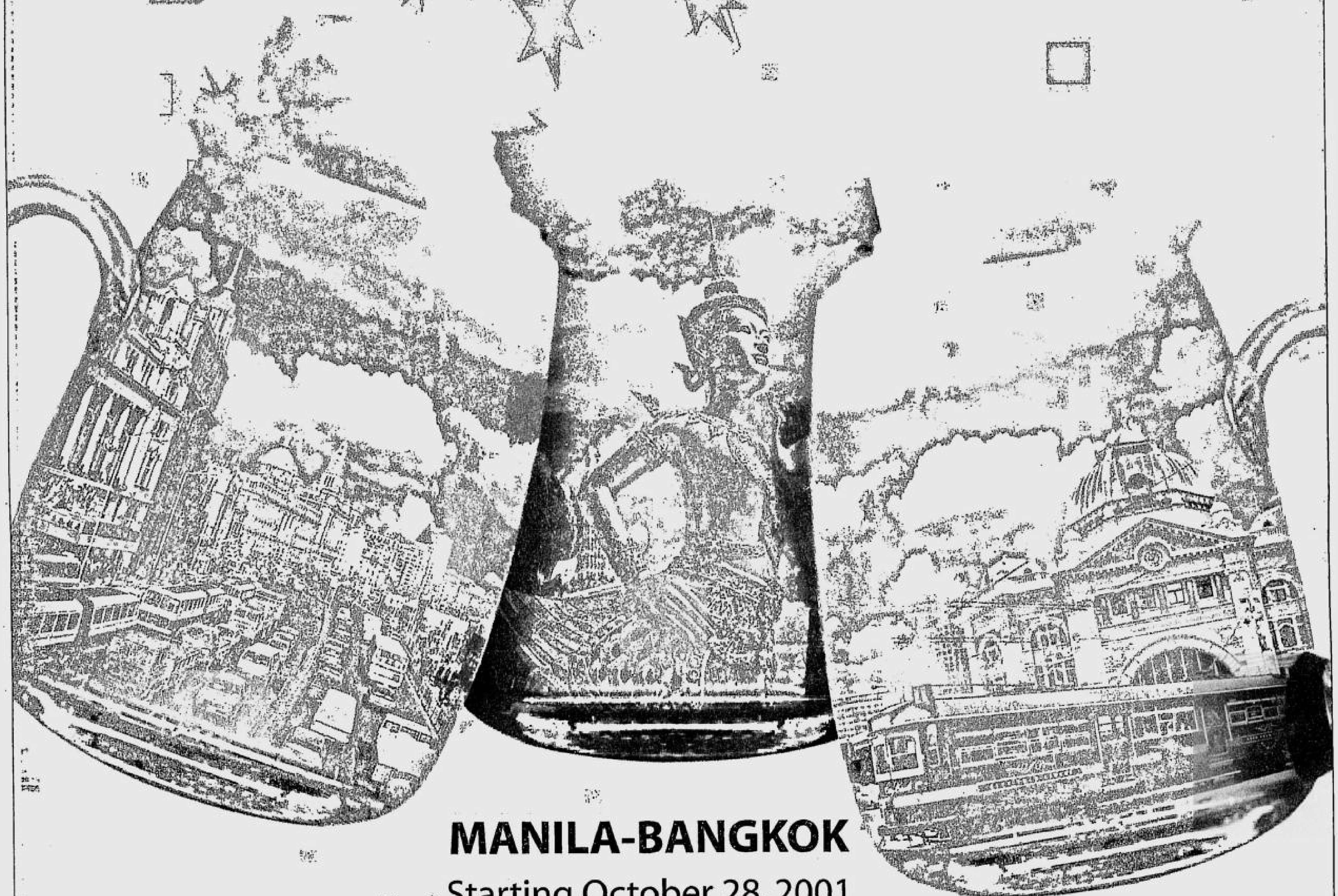

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GMA urged: Make Clark int'l airport

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo should make Clark the country's premiere international airport to decongest the Naia and spur economic development in Central Luzon.

This was the common stand adopted by some multi-sectoral government and non-government organizations led by the Pampanga Mayors League in a "People's Summit" held Thursday in Angeles City.

The group said Naia is already obsolete and has no room for expansion unlike Clark, which was recently renamed Diosdado Macapagal International Airport (DMIA).

The DMIA has two parallel runways, which were designed to accommodate the US Space Shuttle and bigger airplanes of the United States.

The group also scored the contract between the government and the Philippine International Air Terminal Inc. (Piatco) which they claimed would stunt the growth of the DMIA.

The contract, the group said, contained provisions virtually giving Piatco a monopoly to operate international airports.

In a statement, former Securities and Exchange Commission chair Perfecto Yasay Jr., chair and spokesperson of the MIA-Naia Association of Service Operators (Maso), who was the principal guest at the summit, said that the Piatco contract "is not only detrimental to the interest of Clark but also to the Filipino people."

Yasay said the contract, which was amended three times, should immediately be abrogated.

Yasay said he is hopeful that the President will act favorably on the sentiments expressed by those who attended the summit.

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Ospital ng Muntinlupa opens

Corporate concept of a government hospital realized

OSPITAL NG MUNTINLUPA

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WHEN the Ospital ng Muntinlupa formally opens its doors today, Oct. 29, the public will readily see world-class health care facilities and services. What would not be so obvious to the naked eye, however, is the spirit of cooperation among private and public organizations that went behind the planning and construction of this hospital along Civic Drive of Filinvest Corporate City in Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

Nevertheless, the guest roster at the opening is enough evidence of the wide cross-section of society involved; all towards providing quality health-care services to Muntinlupa's residents, particularly the poorest of the poor.

Expected to attend today's ceremonies are the city's top government officials, as well as civic and business leaders. They will be joined by some special guests, including Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit, Jaime and Bea Zobel, who will represent the Ayala Group of Companies, and Andrew and Mercedes Gotianun, who will represent the Filinvest Group. Two of the country's biggest business conglomerates, the Ayala and Filinvest Groups are both active supporters of Muntinlupa's continuing growth as a modern urban center.

Among the other invited special guests are Senators Renato Cayetano, Ramon Magsaysay, Jr., and Rodolfo Biazon, with Muntinlupa Congressman Rufino Rozzano Biazon.

Other special guests among prominent Muntinlupa residents are, Roberto and Pinky Baes, Epi and Batch Joaquin, Alberto and Sylvia Lina, Alberto and Tess Looyuko, Vic and Nora Santos, Trinidad Panicucci, Cesar and Tina Sarino, Ramon and Josie Sy, Virginia Syjuco and Carmen Yulo.

Also expected to grace the occasion is Evelyn Singson, chairperson of the Asian Hospital which is also located on a nearby lot along Civic Drive. The two Hospitals will be complementing each other in providing a wide range of quality health care services to the residents of Muntinlupa.

Conceptualized and initiated by city officials, led by then Mayor and former Congressman Ignacio R. Bunye, and then sustained and effectively supported by incumbent Mayor Jaime R. Fresnedi, the Ospital ng Muntinlupa has actually already been providing out-patient care to Muntinlupa residents since its soft opening last April 27. In fact, over the past five months, it has treated over 3,000 out-patients.

THE PARTNERSHIP at work — City Mayor Jaime R. Fresnedi (left) confers with the board of trustees of the Ospital ng Muntinlupa Foundation Inc., led by Chairman Manuel Luis C. Gonzales (right). Joining the discussion is Hospital Director Dr. Antonio M. Montalban (2nd from left).

Although it is a city government-owned medical facility, the hospital is operated and managed by a private group, the Ospital ng Muntinlupa Foundation Inc, (OMFI), a non-stock, non-profit and non-partisan multi-sectoral organization of civic-spirited Muntinlupa residents who share the city government's vision of giving the poor the same quality health care that patients normally receive in private hospitals.

The 10-man OMFI board of trustees is led by businessman Manuel Luis C. Gonzales as chairman, with Florencio C. Lat as vice chairman and Wilfrido R. Wisco as treasurer.

The other trustees are Dr. Ma. Auxiliadora F. Alejo, Dr. Praxedes P. Bigata, Magdalena C. Coronado, Dulce D. de Leon, Nela S. Ferrer, Dr. Teresita V. Filoteo and Dr. Estelita S. J. Santos.

The OMFI-run city hospital is headed by noted orthopedic surgeon Dr. Antonio M. Montalban, who serves as hospital director. A former director of the Philippine General Hospital, brings to the Ospital ng Muntinlupa a wealth of knowledge and experience in the management of a tertiary health care institution.

Operating the city hospital through a private foundation is in line with the policy of the Department of Health as embodied in its health sector reform agenda which institutionalizes the corporate concept of a government hospital to allow a significant degree of self-sustainability, without compromising the quality of health care services for indigent patients.

The foundation's involvement is also expected to eliminate the stigma of poor quality service that is usually attached to government-owned health care facilities.

Indigents to enjoy top priority status at OM

IF you're a Muntinlupa resident, expect preferential treatment at the newly opened Ospital ng Muntinlupa. And if you're from the city's marginalized sector, expect to be treated like a king.

"The ultimate objective of the city government in putting up the hospital is to serve the poorest of the poor residents in this city," Muntinlupa Mayor Jaime R. Fresnedi said. "I would like them to know that with or without money, they can also get at the Ospital ng Muntinlupa the same kind of excellent medication the rich gets in the country's leading private hospitals."

Although owned by the Muntinlupa City government, the hospital is operated and managed by a private group, the Ospital ng Muntinlupa Foundation Inc. which has been tasked to provide "accessible, affordable, total quality health care service to people in need, with preference for bonafide residents of the city."

Expressing the sentiments of the board, Manuel Luis C. Gonzales, OMFI chairman, said, "At the Ospital ng Muntinlupa, the poor is king."

Health is one of Fresnedi's priorities under his eight-point program of governance. In this program, the city chief executive is ably supported by city officials led by Vice Mayor Jo Jason T. Alcaraz, and Councilors Patricio L. Boncayao, Jr., Allan Rey Camilon, Raul R. Corro, Nicanor L. Echavez, Baldomero D. Niefes, Icasianio M dela Rea, Aldrin L. San Pedro, and Melchor R. Tevez of the First District, together with Councilors Francis Ian T. Bagatsing, Mario T. Bulay, Rene Carl S. Cayetano, Lucio B. Constantino, Elmer S. Espeleta, Rufino B. Joaquin, Mamerto T. Sevilla, Jr., and Victor L. Ulanday of the Second District, with ABC president Artemio A. Simundac.

With the start of operations of the Ospital ng Muntinlupa, the city's health care system is expected to be strengthened further. To begin with, holders of the city government-issued health cards can now avail themselves of subsidized medical services at the hospital.

OMFI board members meet — Chairman Manuel Luis C. Gonzales (center) presides over a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Ospital ng Muntinlupa Foundation, Inc. (OMFI) with, (from left) Trustees Dulce D. de Leon and Dr. Estelita S. J. Santos, Treasurer Wilfrido R. Wisco, Vice Chairman Florencio C. Lat, and Trustees Dr. Praxedes P. Bigata and Dr. Auxiliadora F. Alejo. Not in photo are Trustees Magdalena C. Coronado, Nela S. Ferrer and Dr. Teresita V. Filoteo.

OMFI makes service a way of life

The men and women leading the Ospital ng Muntinlupa Foundation Inc. are no strangers to the city. Or to community work.

Take the chairman of its board of trustees, for example. A successful businessman and a respected civic leader, Manuel Luis C. Gonzales is a Papal Knight who served as president of the Ayala Alabang Village Association for many years. He is the president of the St. James the Great Parish Foundation which raised the funds for and built the Ayala Alabang parish church. He is also the chairman of the Southridge Night School.

Speaking on behalf of his OMFI colleagues, Gonzales said, "The Lord has been very kind to all of us. We are all blessed and what we want to do now is to share these blessings with our fellow men, especially with the less privileged members of our society."

Thus, at the newly opened Ospital ng Muntinlupa, the OMFI will not only build a first class hospital that will bring quality health care and medical services to the poor; it will create a "culture of service" geared towards Muntinlupa's indigent residents.

"This culture of service will be instilled in all the hospital staff, from the highest officials to the lowliest janitor," Gonzales said.

The idea, he explained, is to make the sick but poor residents of the city, who are expected to flock to the hospital, feel welcome and comfortable. "We want them to feel good here; we want them to feel that the Ospital ng Muntinlupa is truly their hospital," he said.

In line with OMFI's objective to serve the underprivileged, all the hospital's facilities will be made available to its poorest patients. "While we will also be serving paying patients, everything in the hospital – from the beds to the most sophisticated equipment – will be accessible to the poor, service patients," Gonzales pointed out.

GMA congratulates OM officers, staff; gov't-private sector partnership cited

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo lauded the formal opening today of the newly-built Ospital ng Muntinlupa in Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

In her message, the Chief Executive congratulated the officers and staff of the new hospital for their efforts in providing world-class health care at affordable rates.

For his part, Health Secretary Manuel M. Dayrit expressed confidence on the validity of this government-private sector partnership between the city officials and the foundation as he cited the advantages of their joint effort to establish this center of wellness to achieve a viable hospital care system providing accessible and affordable quality health care service to people in need with preference to bonafide residents of Muntinlupa.

"Should this partnership prove to be successful and truly beneficial to the people, the same concept may be replicated in other suitable areas of the country in furtherance of our national health reform agenda," he added.

Tools, skills ready for tertiary general hospital status

THE OSPITAL ng Muntinlupa will be a tertiary general hospital for all patients. Its major clinical departments have state-of-the-art medical equipment and facilities manned by highly skilled and specialized medical professionals. All of these give light to the hospital's vision to become a center of wellness.

OM's Emergency Medical Services Department can accommodate 18 stretchers at any time, and is equipped with a cardiac monitoring-defibrillator and a cardiac monitor with a peripheral oxygen monitor and non-invasive blood pressure monitoring system, with a centralized oxygen-vacuum gas system. It also has a minor operating room.

The Out-Patient Department has 24 consultation rooms for four major clinical services: Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Surgery.

Physical and Occupational Medicine offers various modes of rehabilitation program for stroke and other neuromuscular disorders.

Laboratory Services Department offers a wide range of diagnostic examinations, using quality laboratory reagents and instrumentation laboratory machines.

> *OM's Emergency Medical Services Department can accommodate 18 stretchers at any time*

Radiologic and Ultrasound Services Department offers general and specialized x-ray examinations using German technology.

Pharmacy Services will supply the necessary intravenous fluids, drugs and medicines from well-known suppliers and manufacturers of pharmaceutical products.

Cardio-Pulmonary Services has modern echocardiography machines including instrumentation laboratory, arterial-blood gas analyzer and ECG facilities.

Operating and Delivery Room Services has 10 operating and delivery rooms with sophisticated German equipment, cautery machines, cardiac monitors and specialized operating room tables.

Intensive & Special Care Services has four special nursing units: Medical Intensive Care Unit (MICU), Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU), Neonate Intensive Care Unit (NICU), and Nursery & Premature Care Unit.

In-Patient Nursing Services has wards, semi-private, private and suite rooms with centralized oxygen-vacuum gas system, and 3-crank manually operated Sigma-Care beds.

We congratulate and pledge our support to the Ospital ng Muntinlupa Foundation, Inc.

On the opening of the Ospital ng Muntinlupa as a center of wellness to provide quality health care services to the residents of Muntinlupa City

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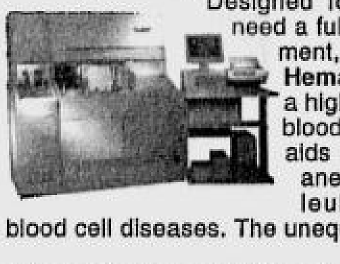
State-of-the-art equipment now in place

Among the state-of-the-art laboratory equipment now in place at the Ospital ng Muntinlupa are the Beckman Coulter-made systems distributed here by Marsman Drysdale Medical Products, Inc.

The **Access Immunoassay System** is a powerful random access bench-top analyzer that performs a variety of assay examinations.

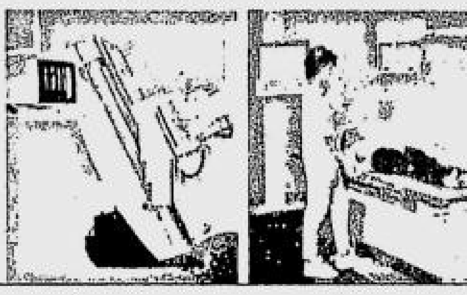


Designed for laboratories that need a fully automated equipment, the **Coulter STKS Hematology Analyzer** is a high capacity, complete blood count analyzer that aids in the diagnosis of anemia, dengue fever, leukemia and other blood cell diseases. The unequaled sensitivity and specificity of its 3-D VCS technology can provide accurate measurement and dramatically reduce the need for manual WBC differential counting.

The **Synchron CX7 workstation** offers a broad menu of blood chemistries like blood sugar, cholesterol and uric acid, kidney and liver function test, as well as test for drugs of abuse like marijuana, shabu and cocaine. Designed for mid-volume laboratories, the CX7 is easy to use and maintain.

Siemens: solutions that help

OM's service capability is enchanced by a wide range of advanced medical systems and solutions for diagnostic and therapeutic applications that help doctors to provide patients with more accurate and reliable diagnoses.



Among these systems supplied by Siemens Inc., are the **Sireskop CX fluoroscopy system** for universal hospital applications and special procedures like G.I. series, Barium Enema, among others. Its cutting-edge components ensure excellent image quality every time.

For its x-ray systems, OM has **Multix Compact**, the optimal radiographic workstation that can handle the general radiological requirements for all anatomical regions as well as orthopedics.

The **Cypress Echocardiography system** is an all-digital echocardiography system for diagnosis of heart-related ailments. The system outperforms most, if not all, of the older generation of high-end phased array machines.

Davao killings alarm lawyers

DAVAO CITY—The Integrated Bar of the Philippines in Davao has expressed alarm over the spate of vigilante-related deaths of suspected drug dealers and cellular phone snatchers here.

The IBP-Davao chapter, in a three-page resolution, which was also distributed to the media Saturday, said the killings deprived the suspects of their right to due process.

President Macapagal-Arroyo and other ranking national government officials were also sent a copy of the resolution "for their proper information and (for them to do something) on what has been happening in Davao City."

"The spate of summary killings in Davao City is a blatant violation of the constitutional right to life, so much so that not one case so far has been solved by the police and worse, the suspects remain unidentified and are free . . . roaming the streets waiting for their next kill," the statement said.

The lawyers' group also invoked a constitutional provision that says that an individual's basic right to due process "is sacred and inviolable."

The right to life is a constitutional guarantee "in that no person shall be deprived of his life, liberty or property without due process of law," they said.

The lawyers also assailed the police for their apparent lack of interest in solving the killings, saying that most, if not all, of the victims were included in the "order of battle."

"This somehow gives the public, to some extent, the wrong impression that the victims are a menace to society who deserved to be liquidated summarily," the group further said.

Through the statement, the IBP urged the police and all law enforcement agencies of the government like the National Bureau of Investigation to use all their available resources to investigate and put a stop to the killings.

"The IBP is recognizing the importance of solving crimes in society specially those (that are) drug-related. However, it must be stressed that the means do not justify the end and that no affront to human dignity can be ignored, whatever its source, whoever he is, whatever actual form it takes and whenever it occurs," the IBP's statement said.

In a separate interview, IBP president Ramon Edison Batacan said they are willing to help the police in the prosecution of any arrested suspect linked to the killings.

He said the IBP would extend legal assistance to the relatives of the victims in the prosecution of suspected members of the alleged Davao Death Squad. *Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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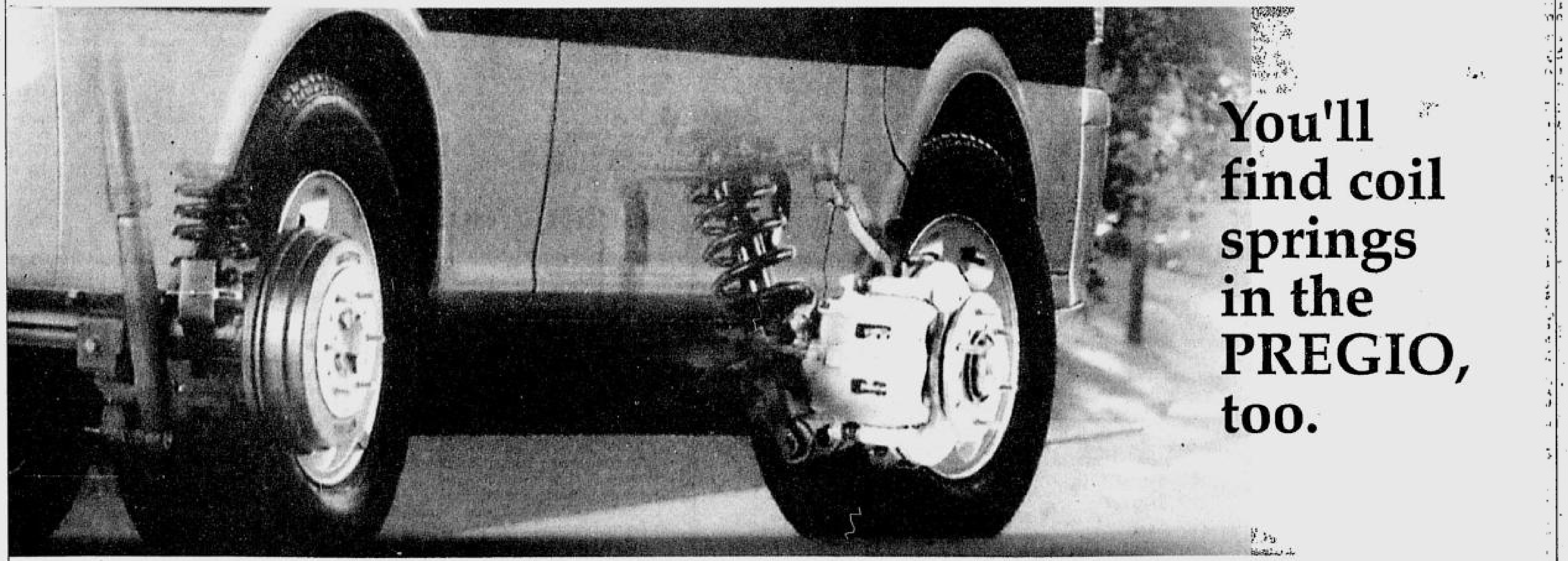

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Zambo plaza blast: 11 dead, scores hurt

(From page A1)

attention of pursuing military and police forces.

Police brought in bomb-sniffing dogs and cordoned off the area, choked by smoke and dust. Authorities were having a hard time determining the number of casualties or the severity of the damage.

A food vendor at the plaza, Julie Santos, said the bomb was hidden in a plastic bag hung on a steel fence.

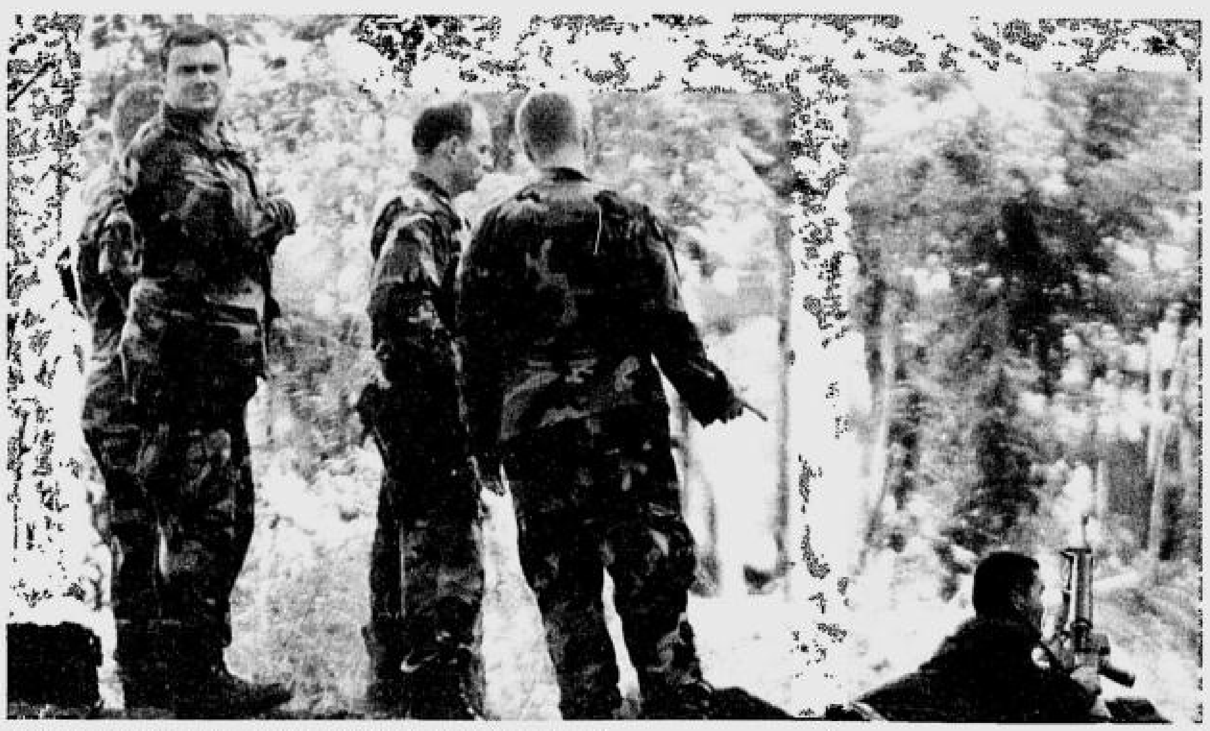
When the bomb went off, "the ground shook" and people around her were knocked off their feet, she said.

Other witnesses said they saw bloodied people on the plaza grounds after the blast. Shoppers stampeded out of the nearby Minpro City Mall. The site of the explosion is only 15 meters away from the cathedral.

There had been smaller bombings in the city the past week but there were few injuries as the bombs used were not powerful.

"It's a very unfortunate incident," Rep. Celso Lobregat said. "I appeal to residents to stay calm and stay in their respective homes. I also ask for prayers from the victims."

Allan Cajucom, spokesperson of the Zamboanga City Red Cross, said the agency attended to six of those killed.



US advisers at the heavily guarded Scout Ranger camp.

AFP

The names of those killed were not available at presstime.

At least 26 people were brought to the Zamboanga City Hospital where an official described their condition as "seriously wounded."

Some of those brought to the city hospital included Alpastir Caminda, 22; Jason Manigil, 17; Fernando Cristobal, 33; Mercy Malcampo, 55; Felix Demaylos, 56; Gilbert Bayot, 25; Joel Lindiap, 27; Porfirio Lim Jr., 22; Flordeliz Agburo, 22; Raquel Torralba, 23; Judilyn Mata, 25; Beverly Serrano, 17; Vivencio Bolanon, 33; Fermin Omamanil, 26; Amit Uranabao, 35; Hassan Jasim, 32; Agustin Araneta, 34; Hermie Alburo, 33; Rene Menudil, 36; Ryan Cinco, 20; David de la Torre, 26; Sergio Anao, 32; Jesus Araneta, 44; Rene Torres, 50; Salvacion Anao, 28; and Isagani Ramos, 31

19 US advisers

Ten hours before the explosion, a helicopter flew 19 US advisers under heavy guard from Zamboanga City to a military base in Basilan's capital town of Isabela.

The American advisers held talks with senior military commanders, visited combat troops, and flew over the island, according to Brig. Gen. Glicerio Sua.

A photographer of Agence France Presse later saw some of the Americans giving weapons training at a secluded firing range of the Philippine Army Scout Rangers at Barangay Cabunbata.

Military sentries later shooed away journalists and soldiers set up roadblocks around the camp.

"They saw the rugged mountains and forest and the bad roads from the air and now better appreciate the difficulties our troops are encountering," Sua said, adding that the Americans would be making follow-up visits.

Sua said the US team was also interested in hearing the government's plans for rehabilitating war-ravaged areas.

Military sources said the US advisers also brought with them a pack of bloodhounds for use in hunting down the bandits.

The bloodhounds are being kept at the headquarters of the Army's 103rd Infantry Brigade in Barangay Tabiawan.

The Abu Sayyaf is holding 11 hostages including US Christian missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham, from Kansas.

The bandits have murdered more than a dozen other hostages, including Californian Guillermo Sobero.

The Abu Sayyaf abducted the three Americans and 18 Filipinos at the Dos Palmas resort in Palawan. The resort recently shut down.

Military officials, however, have stressed that the US advisers were not taking part in combat missions.

Soldiers have been closing in on the Abu Sayyaf in the jungles of Basilan for weeks and military officials believe the end of the five-month kidnapping crisis is near. *With reports from AP and AFP*

More civilians killed as America steps up bombing

(From page A1)

innocent civilians," Rowlands said.

She expressed dismay at the large number of civilian casualties despite American statements that civilians were not targeted.

In Washington, Pentagon spokespersons said late Saturday they could not confirm accounts that the village was hit. There was no immediate comment on the Kabul strike either.

After the bombardment in Kabul's Qali Hotair neighborhood, a wailing father hugged the dead body of his young son who looked barely 2. Nearby lay the bodies of three other children, their sweaters covered in dust. The bodies of two men could be seen as well.

A neighbor, 13-year-old Shafiq Ullah, said several people were injured and taken to hospitals. "The bombs dropped there," he said, pointing.

Another neighbor, Zarmeen Bibi, said the strike occurred about 7 a.m. Several US jets roared over Kabul on Sunday morning, apparently aiming at military installations backing up Taliban frontlines.

Taliban anti-aircraft fire rang out as the planes flew overhead, but the salvos were ineffective against the high-flying jets.

Overnight, the roar of jets and anti-aircraft fire could be heard occasionally, but there was no bombardment in the city center itself.

On the frontlines of the Northern Alliance near the opposition-held Bagram air base, spokesperson Bismillah Khan said the latest wave of bombardment could be targeting military installations at the rear.

Sunday's raids followed what witnesses called the heaviest such strikes of the 3-week-old air campaign on Taliban frontlines in the north of Afghanistan—including the accidental hits on the villages of Ghanikheil, Raqi and Nikhahil, the third of which is on the Taliban side.

Villagers in Ghanikheil said two mud houses were hit. In one house, a family was preparing for a wedding.

They said a 20-year-old woman was killed and six others were hurt in one bombed house. Four others were hurt in the second house, they said.

"The sound was huge. The plane swooped down—I could hear it dive," said another eyewitness, Amin Ullah, 70. "I heard the huge explosion."

Church attack

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack on the church in the eastern part of Pakistan.

"Around 9 this morning, six people on two motorcycles stormed into the church and they sprayed bullets indiscriminately on people inside the church," police officer Mohammad Khalid told AFP.

Pakistan is an overwhelmingly Muslim country but around 2 percent of its 140 million population belong to various Christian churches.

The attack on the church came as the Pakistan authorities sought to contain thousands of armed Pashtun tribesmen attempting to cross into Afghanistan to join the Taliban.

The tribesmen are grouped close to the border in Northwest Frontier Province and armed with Kalashnikov automatic rifles, machine guns, rocket launchers and locally manufactured shotguns, police said.

The interior ministry said the tribesmen were led by Soofi Mohammad, head of Tehreek Nifaz-e-Sharia Mohammadi group that wants Islamic Sharia law in Pakistan.

Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf has been walking a tightrope, decrying what he called "excessive" civilian casualties of the US bombing campaign and cracking down on violent protests by Islamic militants at home.

More aid

In an effort to bolster the key ally, US President George W. Bush is considering additional financial aid to Pakistan, an administration official said over the weekend.

The aid would be on top of the $100 million already promised, the US official said. "We are considering additional assistance and we're working closely with Congress on what other measures could be appropriate."

An exodus of refugees from Afghanistan, reports of significant civilian casualties and bombing mistakes have led to mounting criticism of the US-led air campaign, although the Pentagon has repeatedly dismissed Taliban claims of 1,000 civilian fatalities.

The Taliban militia has so far weathered the air strikes, which began on Oct. 7, without cracking.

Taliban fighters continue to hold back opposition forces on the frontlines, although their positions have taken a battering.

They also continue to refuse US demands to surrender Osama bin Laden, the Saudi-born militant accused of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States.

The Taliban claimed Saturday to have beaten back a new opposition offensive outside the strategic northern town of Mazar-e-Sharif.

The reported setback for the anti-Taliban forces near Mazar-e-Sharif came on the heels of another one—Friday's summary execution by Taliban forces of opposition leader Abdul Haq.

He had crossed into Afghanistan to try to persuade Afghan tribal leaders to abandon the Taliban and throw their support behind exiled former Afghan king Mohammad Zaher Shah.

Haq's family said the Taliban agreed to return the body. He was to have been buried Sunday in Peshawar, Pakistan.

But hours before the funeral was to have taken place, Haq's personal secretary, Abdul Rahim Zalmi, said the family was informed that the Taliban had decided to bury him instead in his Afghan home village of Surkhrud.

A memorial service would still take place in Peshawar, said Zalmi.

1.5M refugees

The United Nations estimates that 1.5 million Afghans could be driven out of the country by the conflict.

Pakistan has come under pressure to admit the refugees, but fears for its own stability as anger at the US-led campaign spreads among its own population.

Some 50,000 people protested in Karachi on Friday in the biggest display of anti-US anger since the strikes began.

With winter approaching and conditions in war-ravaged Afghanistan deteriorating further, the United Nations said more humanitarian aid was needed for the 6 million Afghans.

"We need to do much more in terms of getting food and relief items, especially in the north of Afghanistan where the crisis is most serious," said UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Kenzo Oshima. *Reports from AP and AFP*

Gloria smiles, flies to China

(From page A1)

Gentleman Mike Arroyo and the official delegation took off for a three-day state visit to China.

The military and police went on alert following the President's departure.

"The Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Armed Forces are on blue alert," said Thompson Lantion, director for police community relations.

"Blue alert" means 50 percent of the country's police and military forces are put on stand-by, while "red alert" means all personnel are put on watch.

"It's part of regular procedure each time the President leaves the country . . . there's no cause for public alarm. The blue alert level has nothing to do with coup rumors," Lantion said.

Opportune time

Ms Macapagal said her visit came at the most opportune time as China was set to join the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Many nations are worried that China's official entry to the big export markets such as the United States will wipe out their own exports.

"At no other time has our relationship with China been more important than today," Ms Macapagal said.

"China's accession to the WTO two months from now will place it firmly in the orbit of the new economy. Every nation, including ours, is poised for the opportunities offered by this event as we have nurtured our political and economic bonds with this great country for many years," she said.

During her visit last week to Shanghai, the President said China's entry would affect the exports of other countries because China could export the same products at the same or lower prices.

She told Chinese officials then that she was not worried over China's entry as Philippine exports had already been affected by China's most-favored nation status granted by the previous Clinton administration.

This is why her administration has focused on the domestic market, according to the President.

Apart from trade and investments, Ms Macapagal will discuss with Chinese President Jiang Zemin the Spratlys issue, transnational crimes and agricultural cooperation.

The two leaders will witness the signing of three landmark agreements on extradition, transnational crimes and drugs.

At the end of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit last Sunday, she and Jiang began discussions on an agreement that would allow convicted persons from either country to serve their sentences in their country of origin.

Under the proposed agreement, jailed Chinese nationals will be sent back to China to serve their sentence and vice versa.

But Ms Macapagal said she would not take back jailed Filipinos from China convicted of drug trafficking.

Her trip to China will be preceded by an overnight official visit to the Hong Kong Special Administration Region.

Keynote address

Originally she was just supposed to deliver the keynote address at the 10th East Asia Economic Summit in Hong Kong, which opened yesterday.

The visit to Hong Kong was upgraded last week to an official one because she would hold bilateral talks with Tung Chee-hwa, Hong Kong chief executive.

Ms Macapagal said she was "most gratified to note that this is the first official invitation ever extended by the Hong Kong government to a Philippine president since the handover of Hong Kong to China in 1997."

Her predecessor, Joseph Estrada, made a working visit to Hong Kong in 1999. He also met with Tung at the Executive House.

Ms Macapagal said her visit to Hong Kong and China "will reaffirm the historic ties between the Filipino and the Chinese people."

"The beautiful fact is that Hong Kong and China are our closest neighbors to the north. We are all Asians. We are all brothers," she said.

The President, her husband and an official delegation of 17 arrived at the Chek Lap Kok International Airport at about 10 a.m.

Hong Kong's richest

This morning, Hong Kong's richest man Li Ka-shing is set to call on her, and the President is expected to ask him to invest in the Philippines.

In an interview with two editors of the Asian Wall Street Journal upon her arrival in Hong Kong, the President said the country would use the resiliency it displayed during the past six months of her administration to meet the economic uncertainties caused by the terrorist attacks on the United States.

"But what is important is not to be overconfident but to focus really our fiscal, monetary and income policies toward the strengthening of the local economy," Ms Macapagal said. *With a report from Carlito Pablo*

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OCT. 30-31	9-5:30	JEWELRY APPRAISAL AND PAWNSHOP OPERATION	1,540.00
NOV. 3-4	9-5:30	HERBAL BATH SOAP (in cooperation with ITDI/DOST)	1,540.00
NOV. 3-4	9-5:30	AROMA CANDLE MAKING (in cooperation with ITDI/DOST)	1,540.00
NOV. 3-4	9-5:30	ORGANIZING PARTY FUNFARE AS A BUSINESS (with Balloon Decors)	2,310.00
NOV. 3-5		OPERATING A LAUNDRY SHOP BUSINESS (SMALL-SCALE)	1,732.50
3-4	9-5:30	(with field trip)	
5	9-12:00		
NOV. 5	9-5:30	FRANCHISING A BUSINESS	770.00
NOV. 5-6	9-5:30	WOOD FRAMING	1,540.00
NOV. 5-6	9-5:30	THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE (SWEDISH STYLE)	1,540.00
NOV. 5-7		COCONUT MINI-OIL MILLING AND REFINING	1,732.50
5-6	1-5:30	(In cooperation with ITDI/DOST)	
7	9-4:00	(with field trip)	
NOV. 6-7	9-5:30	PRINTING PRESS BUSINESS (NEW) (with field trip)	1,386.00
NOV. 7	9-5:30	PERFUMES AND COLOGNES	770.00
NOV. 8-9	9-5:30	JEWELRY APPRAISAL AND PAWNSHOP OPERATION	1,540.00
NOV. 8-9	9-5:30	RESIN BONDED ARTWARES	2,310.00
NOV. 8-9	9-5:30	FASTFOOD BUSINESS OPERATION (with field trip)	1,386.00
NOV. 9	9-5:30	SETTING UP A TRAVEL AGENCY	770.00
NOV. 10-11	9-5:30	ACCOUNTING AND RECORD KEEPING FOR SMALL BUSINESSES	1,540.00
NOV. 10-11	9-5:30	DECORATIVE CANDLE MAKING (in cooperation with ITDI/DOST)	1,540.00
NOV. 10-11	9-5:30	DOLLAR TRADING/FOREIGN CURRENCY EXCHANGE	1,155.00
NOV. 12-13	9-5:30	CATERING BUSINESS OPERATION	1,155.00
NOV. 12-13	9-5:30	REFLEXOLOGY	1,540.00
NOV. 12-14	9-5:30	FRESH FLOWER ARRANGEMENT AND FLOWER SHOP OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT (with field trip)	2,310.00

AGRI / AQUA COURSES

DATE	TIME	COURSE	DISCOUNTED FEE
NOV. 3-5		TILAPIA CULTURE (with field trip)	1,732.50
3	9-5:30		
4	1-5:30		
5	9-2:00		
NOV. 5-7	9-4:00	BROILER PRODUCTION (MEAT TYPE CHICKEN) (with field trip)	1,732.50
NOV. 7-9	9-4:00	MANGO PRODUCTION (WITH IMPROVED FLOWER INDUCTION) AND POST-HARVEST HANDLING AND STORAGE TECHNOLOGY (with field trip)	1,732.50
NOV. 9-10	9-5:30	GOAT AND SHEEP RAISING (with field trip)	1,386.00
NOV. 10-14	9-4:00	SWINE PRODUCTION (with field trip)	2,079.00
NOV. 12-14	9-4:00	LAYER PRODUCTION (TABLE EGG) (with field trip)	1,732.50

FOOD COURSES

DATE	TIME	COURSE	DISCOUNTED FEE
OCT. 30-31	9-5:30	BASIC MEAT PROCESSING	1,540.00
OCT. 31	9-5:30	FLAVORED AND FORTIFIED JUICE	770.00
NOV. 3-4	9-5:30	SPECIALTY CAKES AND PASTRIES	1,540.00
NOV. 5-6	9-5:30	PASTILLAS MAKING	1,540.00
NOV. 6-7	9-5:30	COMMERCIAL PROCESSING OF VALUE-ADDED PRODUCTS FROM TILAPIA (NEW)	1,540.00
NOV. 7-8	9-5:30	SORBETES (COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION) (with field trip)	1,540.00
NOV. 8-11	9-5:30	COMMERCIAL BREADMAKING AND BAKERY MANAGEMENT	2,079.00
NOV. 10-11	9-5:30	BASIC MEAT PROCESSING	1,540.00
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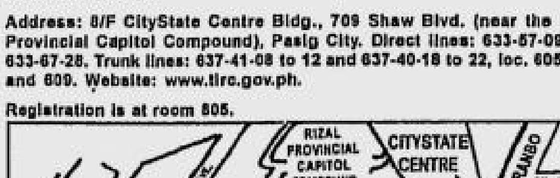


Asean chiefs form troika . . .

(From page A1)

eign investment, Invest Hong Kong.

Longtime concern

Vic Lecaros, Department of Foreign Affairs spokesperson, said terrorism was a "longtime concern" of at least four of the largest Southeast Asian nations—Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand.

"Asean leaders can reasonably be expected to keep this subject of terrorism high in their consciousness," Lecaros said.

The Philippines has been entrusted with the task of drafting the "2001 Asean Declaration on Terrorism" for possible adoption at the group's seventh summit meeting in Bandar Seri Begawan on Nov. 5-6.

If the blueprint is adopted by the 10 leaders, it will be "the first step" toward the conclusion of an Asean agreement on combating international terrorism, according to a concept paper circulated with the draft declaration.

The Asean leaders are also expected to jointly condemn the deadly terrorist attacks in the United States last month, which Washington claims were masterminded by Saudi-born dissident Osama bin Laden.

But they are split on the US-led retaliatory strikes against Bin Laden and his Taliban hosts in Afghanistan.

The region's Muslim nations—Indonesia and Malaysia—have deplored the US-led attacks, which have exacted heavy casualties among civilians. But Singapore and the Philippines gave full support to the strikes on Afghanistan.

Closer cooperation

Muslim Brunei's Foreign Minister Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the current chair of the Asean Standing Committee, acknowledged a recent letter to US Secretary of State Colin Powell the need for closer cooperation in combating terrorist acts worldwide, sources said.

A foreign diplomat based in Southeast Asia said debate on terrorism at the Brunei meeting would be closely followed by international groups as it was being held in a region where more than half of the population of 500 million were Muslims.

Indonesia, Asean's biggest member, is the world's most populous Muslim nation. Malaysia is a largely Muslim country, while the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand have significant Muslim populations.

Since the start of the US bombing of Afghanistan on Oct. 7, there have been near-daily protests in Indonesia as well as demonstrations in Malaysia and the Philippines.

Southeast Asia's Muslim faithful are generally moderate but there are small pockets of militants increasingly expanding ties with international terrorist groups, scholars say.

Some governments are worried Islamic extremists may forge links within the region and pose a more serious threat, officials said.

"Countering terrorism is an international endeavor. The problems are deep-rooted, and there are neither easy answers or final solutions," Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said.

Trade slump

The WEF meeting comes on the heels of a World Trade Organization (WTO) report last week, forecasting world trade growth will slump to 2 percent this year from 12 percent in 2000, with the slowdown spreading from the United States to Western Europe and Asia's emerging economies.

The WTO report said the worst hit countries were in Asia, most notably Singapore and Taiwan, which are heavily dependent on exporting semiconductors and consumer electronics to the United States.

A key session of the Hong Kong summit will explore strategies for Asia's IT sector to re-gather its strength.

In another important session, speakers will discuss the need to manage internal economic reform and restructuring in China, which unlike the rest of the region is still experiencing robust growth.

"The challenge now is to balance the needs of structural reform and continued growth while building ties abroad," the WEF said.

A session will also be held on Asia's role in the hoped-for launch of the WTO's new round of global trade talks scheduled for Doha, Qatar, next month.

The WTO's director general designate, Supachai Panitchpakdi, will be at the summit.

The summit's organizers said Friday no major business or government leader had canceled their attendance following last month's terror attacks.

They added conference attendees would be safe from any major disturbances, such as those which disrupted other economic gatherings, including 1999's World Trade Organization meeting in Seattle and this year's Group of Eight (G8) summit in Genoa.

Aside from Ms Macapagal, key political speakers at the summit will include Japan's Minister for Economic and Fiscal Policy Heizo Takenaka, China's Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation Shi Guangsheng and Hong Kong Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa. *AFP*

PWA holds polls today

THE PHILIPPINE Weightlifting Association will hold its election today with officer-in-charge Jaime Sebastian expected to formally assume the presidency.

Sebastian, also the president of the Athletes and Coaches Association of the Philippines, said at least 16 of the 22 members of the PWA national board are expected to attend the polls intended to give the association a fresh start and a new set of officials.

The election was contained in a letter Sebastian, one Southeast Asia's strongest man, sent to Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit on Oct. 26 informing the POC of the PWA's national board's decision to sack Rodones Sicat as its president effective Oct. 24.

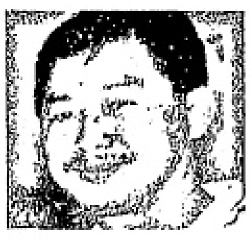
The national board decided to relieve Sicat after he unilaterally decided to relieve Sebastian as head coach of the national team and Graham Lim as vice president on Sept. 29.

Other reasons cited were the Philippines' dismal showing in the Kuala Lumpur Southeast Asian Games, where the Filipinos could only bag two bronze medals, and Sicat's alleged unjustified "outburst" that put the country in a bad light in Malaysia.

Sebastian said they have invited representatives from both the POC and the Philippine Sports Commission to witness the election and expedite the transition of power.

If elected, Sebastian said he would step down as Acap president and focus on uplifting PWA to its former lofty status in the region.

Youth Games give way to Batang Pinoy


LIM

ORGANIZERS of the 2nd National Youth Games have decided to defer its holding in deference to the Batang Pinoy Games which is slated almost at the same time in Bacolod City.

Originally set Dec. 2-9 in Naga City, the NYG will instead be held Jan. 13-19 next year, according to NYG chair Graham Lim. The games, however, will still be held in Naga City and other parts of the Bicol region.

"We don't want to get into the way of the Philippine Sports Commission's Batang Pinoy, which is also geared toward youth development," said Lim. Batang Pinoy is scheduled Dec. 1-7 in Bacolod.

The decision to postpone the 2nd NYG was arrived at following a meeting of its prime movers on Oct. 17.

Another meeting has been scheduled early next month to finalize details of the games confined to athletes who are 18 years old and below.

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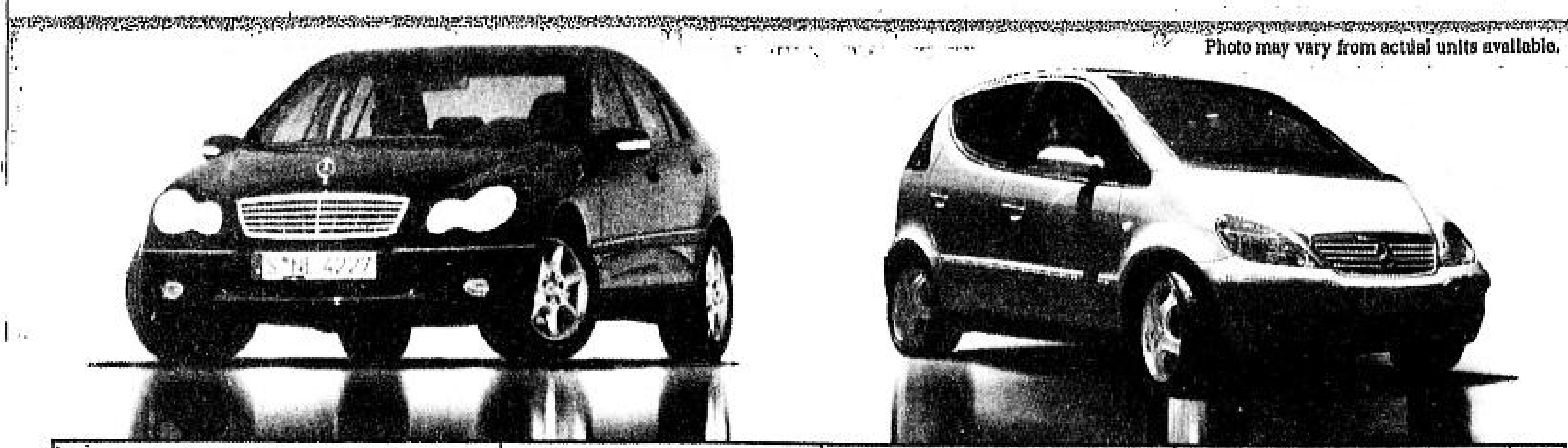

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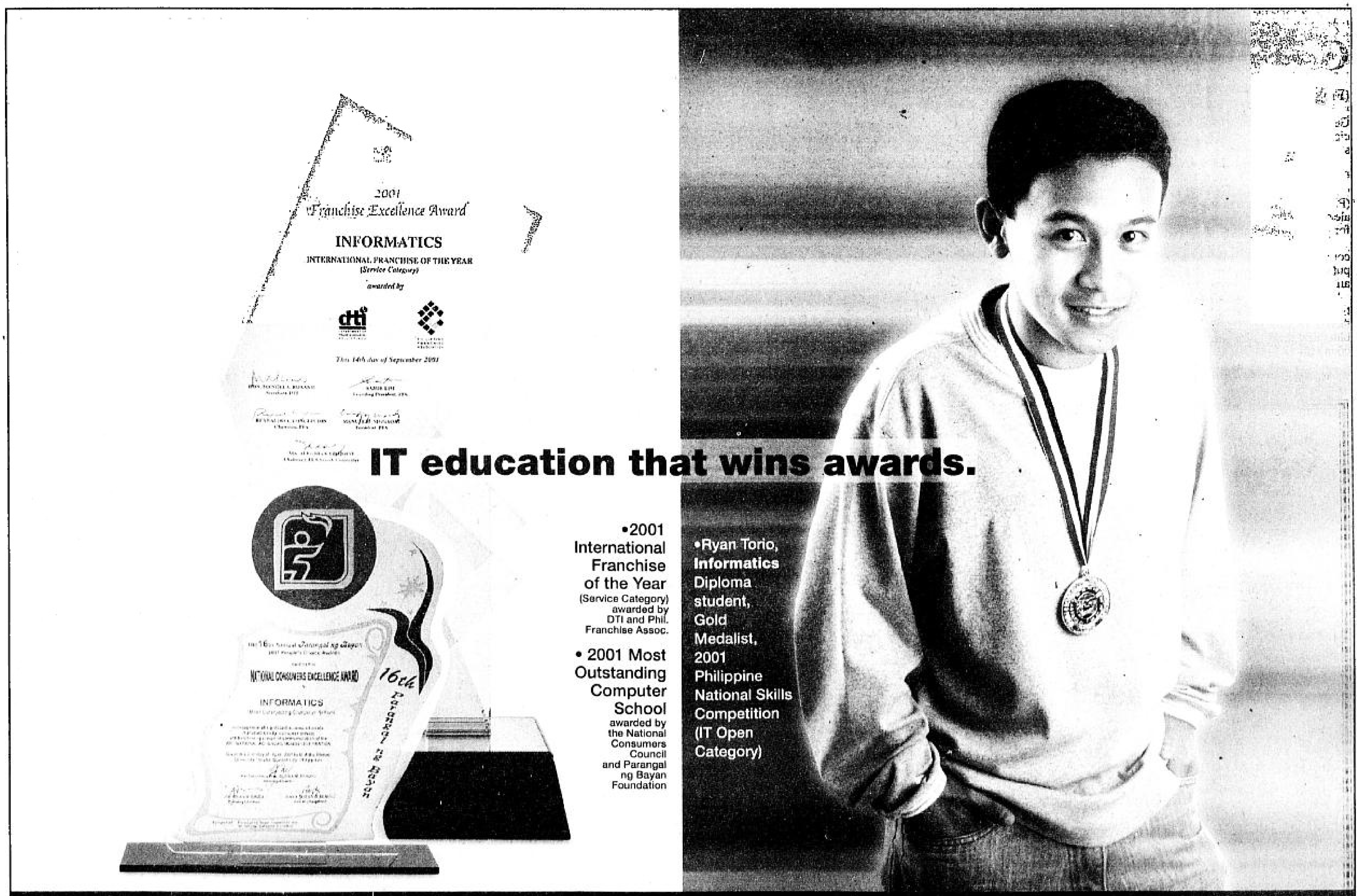

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4 changes

NBA NOTES

Henry Liao

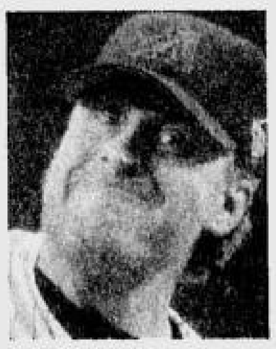
ASIDE from the much-publicized "Third Coming" of His Airness Michael Jordan with the Washington Wizards, there is another prominent challenge in the NBA landscape when the league's 56th campaign unwraps on Halloween's day (Oct. 31, Manila time).

Four changes in playing rules will be implemented this season. These are:

- Illegal defense guidelines will be eliminated in their entirety. That means all forms of zone defenses will be allowed for the first time in NBA history.
- A new defensive three-second rule will prohibit a defensive player form remaining in the 16-foot lane or the area extending four feet past the lane endline for more than three consecutive seconds without actively guarding an offensive player. "Actively guarding" means being within an arm's length of an offensive player and in a guarding position. Violation of this rule is penalized with a technical foul. The offensive team retains possession at the free-throw line extended. The shot clock shall remain the same as when play was interrupted or reset to 14 seconds, whichever is greater.
- The time that an offensive team has to advance the ball past midcourt will be reduced from 10 seconds to eight. Reducing the time to eight seconds means teams will probably trap a lot more in the backcourt on defense, and the offense will be pushing the ball to prevent defenses from setting up. Then again, the trap might cause a turnover or provide the offense with an uncontested dunk or layup.
- Brief contact initiated by a defensive player will be allowed if it does not impede the progress of the player with the ball. The redefinition of the incidental contact should cut down on touch fouls. Hand checks by the defensive player shall be ignored if it does not affect the offensive player's speed, quickness, balance and/or rhythm.

WORLD SERIES OPENER

Arizona whips New York, 9-1



SCHILLING

PHOENIX—Curt Schilling and his Arizona crew made the New York Yankees look like bumbling World Series rookies.

In a startling opener, the three-time champion Yankees completely broke down at Bank One Ballpark, making it easy for Schilling and the Diamondbacks to romp 9-1 Saturday night.

The sure-handed Yankees gave up five unearned runs—the most in a Series game since 1973—and nearly all of manager Joe Torre's moves backfired. The Diamondbacks, playing their first Series game, were glad to take advantage.

Mark Grace, who had waited his whole career for this moment, led the Diamondbacks onto the field. When he hit a two-run double, it was 9-1 in the fourth inning and the rout was on.

October hero Craig Counsell and Luis Gonzalez homered off wobbly Mike Mussina, and that was plenty for Schilling.

Schilling brought high heat to the desert and improved to 4-0 this postseason. He held the Yankees to three hits, including Bernie Williams' bloop RBI double in the first, over seven innings and struck out eight.

The last time the Yankees were held to three or fewer hits in a Series game was in 1963, when Don Drysdale of the Los Angeles Dodgers threw a three-hit shutout in a 1-0 victory.

By the time it was over, even Mike Morgan had pitched for Arizona. The 42-year-old reliever had played for 22 pro teams over 24 seasons without reaching the World Series.

A noisy, record crowd of 49,646 at the BOB partied all night, and the fans were eager for more. Randy Johnson, the Diamondbacks' other ace, will start Game 2 Sunday night (Monday morning in Manila) against Andy Pettitte.

David Justice, playing in place of benched Paul O'Neill, dropped a fly ball in front of the pool beyond the right-center field fence and reliable third baseman Scott Brosius misplayed a grounder for the Yankees errors.

Williams and Justice objected to third-strike calls and Torre and bench coach Don Zimmer challenged umpires' rulings.

When Tony Womack accidentally threw his bat toward the mound after a swing in the fifth, Yankees reliever Sterling Hitchcock flipped it back with disdain—at least he didn't throw at the hitter, as Roger Clemens did last year with Mike Piazza in the Subway Series.

In the last three years, the Yankees had rallied in the late innings to win Series openers in games started by aces Kevin Brown, Greg Maddux and Al Leiter.

This time, flustered and falling apart, they had no chance.

Counsell, the MVP of the NL championship series, homered with one out to make it 1-all.

AP

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Tiznow wins Classic, makes BC history

NEW YORK—Tiznow turned tiger and made Breeders' Cup history Saturday by becoming the first two-time winner of the $4 million Classic.

It looked as if Sakhee, the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe winner, would deny Tiznow a second straight Classic win on a cold, windy day at Belmont Park.

But Tiznow, who was sidelined for six months by a bad back and appeared disinterested in some races, drew even with Sakhee with a sixteenth of a mile (100 meters) left and then stuck his nose in front at the wire.

"He's just outstanding, he is a wonderful horse," said jockey Chris McCarron after winning his fifth Classic.

Bobby Frankel lost with favorites in the first two races and saw favored Aptitude finish in the Classic, but he finally got his First Breeders' Cup victory in 39 starts when Squirtle Squirt won the Sprint.

"It's great—finally," said Frankel, who saw Flute finish seventh in the Distaff, won by Unbridled Elaine, and You finish fifth in Juvenile Fillies, won by Tempera.

Johannesburg, making his US and dirt debuts, dazzled in the Juvenile, as 3-5 favorite Officer finished fifth

Arab owners won three races. The Godolphin Racing stable of the Maktoum family of Dubai won Turf with Fantastic Light, based in Europe, and with Tempera, based in California. Prince Khalid Abdullah of Saudi Arabia won the Filly and Mare Turf with Europe-based Banks Hill.

Godolphin's Fantastic Light earned $1,112,800, Tempera earned $520,000, Imperial Gesture earned $200,000 and Sakhee earned $800,000 as the stable pledged all its winnings to the NTRA Charities-New York Heroes Fund to benefit victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center.

Tiznow's thrilling victory before 53,000 fans snapped a two-race losing streak for a horse that looked lethargic in finishing third in his previous start. It was the sixth race this year for the Jay Robbins-trained colt, who did not race from March to September because of a back injury.

Tiznow ($15.80) raced the 1.25 miles (2.01 kilometers) in 2:00 3-5. Sakhee, ridden by Frankie Dettori and making his US and dirt debuts, finished 1 3-4 lengths ahead of Alber: the Great.

AP

TIZNOW (inner rail) edges Sakhee to become the first two-time winner of the Breeders' Cup Classic. Other big winners in the prestigious race festival were Fantastic Light (Turf), Tempera (Juvenile Fillies), Johannesburg (Juvenile Colts), Squirtle Squirt (Sprint), Val Royal (Mile), Unbridled Elaine (Distaff) and Bank Hill (Filly and Mare Turf).

AP

STARTING 'EM YOUNG

Young sailors and one-design dinghy sailboats like these will take centerstage at the Waterfront Beach in Subic when the 14th Asean Optimist Championship Sailing Regatta sails off on Nov. 18. The week-long competition among sailors 16 years and below is hosted by the Philippine Sailing Association in cooperation with the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, the Subic Yacht Club, the Legend International Resorts Ltd., the Standard Insurance Corp., 105.1 Crossover and with the efforts of Liquid Events Inc. For further details, call Liquid Events Inc. at 746-9394 or 687-5028 loc. 321.

Fishing chief shines

PHILIPPINE Game Fishing Foundation (PGFF) president Rey Buencamino won the American Technologies Inc. and Golden Maple Industrial Corp. Light tackle fishing tournament, the 10th Angler of the Year (AOY) leg, at Talaotao in Lubang, Mindoro recently.

Buencamino scored 109.55 points and landed the heaviest fish, a 2.136 kg *malaguno*. Robert Nery Jr. and Nonato Capili had 90.45 pts. as first runner-up team. Benedict Lim and Efren Chua Yap won second runner-up team honors on 85 pts.

Buencamino regained the overall AOY lead at 54.787 AOY pts. against 51.452 of Bert Lingayo Sr. Up to 20 per cent more AOY credits are still at stake in the next two tournaments, but only Crispin Saez is a distant contender with 32.879.

Benedict Lim captured the lead in the Light Tackle AOY standings from past leader Lingayo Sr. Clustered behind are Buencamino, Layzon, Saez, David Gonzales, Efren Chua Yap, Robert Chan, Cesar Marcelo, Bert Lingayo Jr., Edwin Fernandez, and Capt. Ben Solis who are all prime contenders.

For more details, contact Rose Aberin at PGFF: tels. 373-0248/373-0743 or visit website: www.pgff.com.ph or Email: pgffrose@edsamail.com.ph.

Letter from Mexico

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

CONCERNED with the very serious situation confronting Philippine sports, Honorio E. Ybera Jr. mailed a thought-provoking piece from Acapulco, Mexico. However, due to space constraints, this corner could only print excerpts from his letter. Here's Mr. Ybera: "I never thought that I would be writing you. I know that you are an inveterate basketball man who now dabbles in the exploits of Efren "Bata" Reyes. I do not know if billiards is a parlor game or a sport. I only know that it was made popular by Minnesota Fats. I do not blame you for this. Our nation no longer has (world renowned) athletes in track and field, tennis, swimming, baseball, soccer, etc. It's all basketball all year round.

"This is also true in Mexico. Mexicans love soccer so much that you can find soccer fields in almost all corners of the country. But their fanaticism about soccer can be rationalized because Mexico is one of the top nations in the world that plays the game.

"This is not so with the game of basketball in the Philippines. I know that around 50 amateur national teams in other parts of the world can make our super stars in the PBA, MBA, PBL, UAAP and the NCAA look like fumbling oafs. Why are we insisting on a sport that promises us nothing? Why do we continue to glorify our basketball stars despite the fact that with all their efforts, our country has never qualified for the Olympics since 1974? They have not even beaten the Peoples' Republic of China ever since it participated in the Asian Games.

"The Philippines even launched the Hall of Fame. The only people who deserved to be there were the guys in Rio de Janeiro. (Note: the Philippines, led by Carlos Loyzaga and the late Lauro Mumar placed third in the 2nd World Basketball Championship played in Rio de Janeiro in 1954—MRI). And speaking of Rio de Janeiro, the Philippines could not have been third had the Soviet Union and Argentina… participated… Look what happened to our national team in the world cagefest in Valparaiso, Chile, in 1959 when the cast was stronger. A second stringer all-American Juan Vincenz even made our fast dribbling players look funny. The country finished eighth and that marked the beginning of the end.

"Since it is not good if I continue writing against basketball, I am giving an alternative instead. In Mexico, the leaders built a sport university in the state of Yucatan. The professors are former athletes with doctorate and master degrees. The place faces the Atlantic Ocean and it has a terrain suitable for all kinds of sports from soccer, kayaking, bikathon, diving, beach volleyball, and so on and so forth.

"When the Pan-American Games were held two years ago, Mexico copped the second overall spot in the meet ruled by Cuba. The Mexicans have never been among the top five. They never thought they could win medals in other sports. But they did so and so with their soccer team."

Ybera said the Philippines could pull a surprise in regional competitions similar to what Mexico did, adding, "I have in mind Cagayan Valley where the landscape is not only challenging but far away from the smog and pollution of the cities." However, he stressed to exclude basketball if such enterprise materializes. "We must realize that we have no chance in it."

***

PRIDE OF PAMPANGA. Brothers Jun and Rudy Jingco of Pampanga's Jima-Fer fame never fail to amaze the legions of cockfighting buffs because the soft-spoken cockerbreeders typify the genuine *sabungero*, one who is fair and honors his word, a credit to the authentic Filipino sport which is known around the world for its adherence to honesty and sportsmanship.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY
LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASEBALL: MLB World Series, Game 2 at 8 a.m. on ESPN

BOWLING: CGU Asian Bowling Tour - Thailand Women's Highlights at 1:30 p.m. (r) on ESPN

AMERICAN FOOTBAL: NFL - New York Giants vs Washington Redskins at 5 p.m. on ESPN

GOLF: Golfglobe 2001 at 9 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

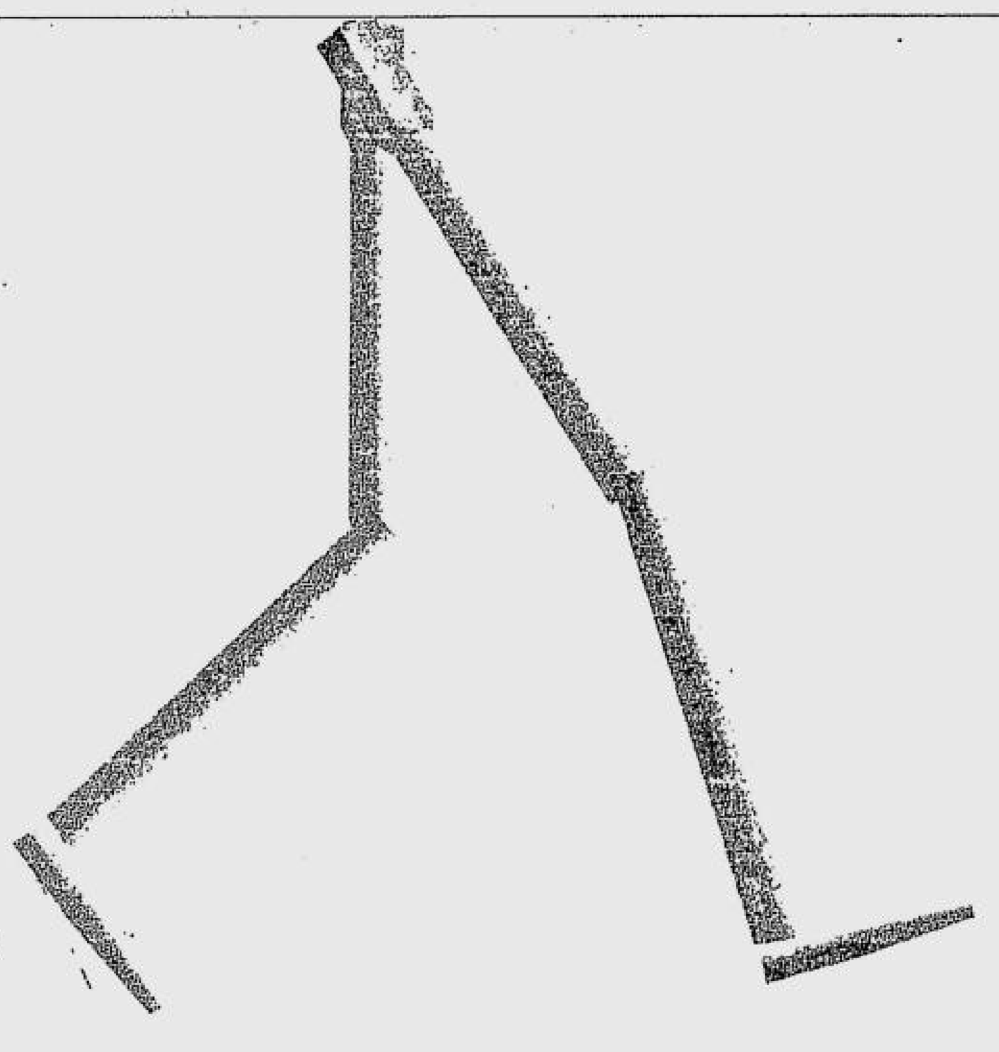
Buy.Com Tour Championship 2001, Final Round at 2 p.m. (r – 10 p.m.) on Star Sports

VOLLEYBALL: FIVB - Spain Open, Men's 3rd Place and Final at 10 a.m. on Star Sports

BASKETBALL: 2001 ABC Championship for Women, Final at 7:30 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

CLASS A CHAMP

Dan Salvador III (center) displays his trophy as the Class A individual champion of the recent Sta. Lucia Tour second leg at the Orchard golf and Country Club. Looking on are Alta Vista directors Ramon Sebastian (right) and Renato Dychangco Jr. the next leg will be played Nov. 9-10 at the rancho Palos Verdes in Davao.



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Orchard tilt offers P2.9-M package

A PACKAGE of three Ford models totaling P2.9 million will be given away as grand raffle prizes in the Founders' Invitational Golf Cup, the annual member-guest tournament of the Orchard Golf and Country Club, set for Nov. 24 and 25.

A Ford Expedition Sport Trac, Ford trekker 4x2 and Ford Lynx Ghia AT make up the whopping package that will be given away to lucky ticketholders during the awarding ceremonies on Sunday, Nov. 25.

A total of 140 teams out of an allowable 208 have already registered as organizers happily announced the keen interest given by members to the biggest event in the club calendar as well as corporate sponsors.

Already in the sponsorship roster are Ford Alabang which will put a 2001 Ford Lynx 1.6L Ghia as a hole-in-one prize, Transnational Diversified, Cebu Pacific, Greens Management, The Turf Company Aqua-Dyne, CICI Gen. Insurance, Clark Panham, C-PAL Meal Works, Emeritus Security, Exotic Gardens & Maintenance, Maisog Engineering, Int'l Exchange Bank, Golf Library, Sehwani and Bathala Marketing.

The tournament is a 36-hole Modified Stableford competition among teams made up of an Orchard member or their spouses in good standing with their respective guests.

Entry fee is P6,000 per team inclusive of practice round, giveaways, breakfast snacks and beverage and the awards night dinner.

The maximum handicap allowed will be 20 for male guests and 25 for lady guests. A member will use his/her handicap posted as of Oct. 1, 2001 while their guests must submit their lowest indices as of Oct. 1, 2001.

A guest must also be a member in good standing of a recognized golf club which uses the Information Professionals Inc. (IPI) and the National Golf Association of the Philippines (NGAP) handicaps.

For more information, please call the Orchard at 843-8339, 843-8342 or 843-8361.

Goosen moves ahead in Madrid Open

MADRID, Spain—Retief Goosen was poised to claim the European No. 1 spot after he moved serenely into the lead in Saturday's third round of the $.26-million Madrid Open golf tournament. The 32-year-old South African shot a 5-under-par 66 over the Club de Campo course, playing easily in warm, windless conditions, to finish 17-under overall at 196.

Edwards on top by 1 shot

PINE MOUNTAIN, Georgia—Joel Edwards, who needed 316 tournaments to win for the first time on the PGA Tour, defied chilly, windy weather to shoot a 7-under-par 65 Saturday in the third round of the Buick Challenge.

The 39-year-old Texan has an 18-under 198 going to the final day at Callaway Gardens, giving him a one-stroke lead over Davis Love III.

Love was the second-round leader and still on top making the turn, but momentum shifted on the back nine at the two par-5s.

Edwards had an eagle at No. 11, the next-to-easiest hole on the Mountain View course. He skipped his second shot between a couple of bunkers and sank a 5.4-meter (18-foot) putt.

At 15, Love yanked his tee shot into the woods and wound up with a bogey, while Edwards birdied the same hole for a two-shot swing.

Edwards played 315 tournaments before winning for the first time — the longest period in tour history for someone to claim their inaugural victory. He cruised to a seven-stroke triumph at the Air Canada Championship in the first weekend of September.

Now, in only his fifth tournament since, Edwards finds himself in position for an even more important triumph.

By winning again, he would qualify for the season-ending Tour Championship, which is reserved for the top 30 money winners. *AP*

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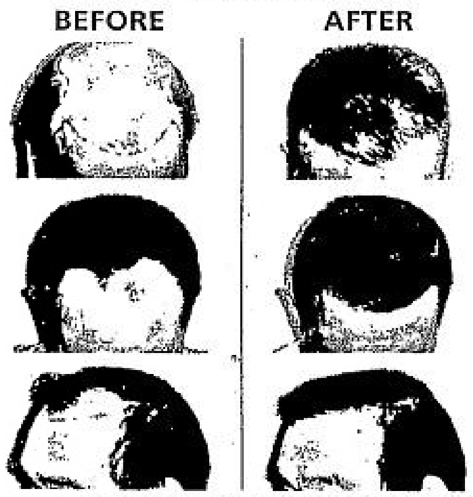

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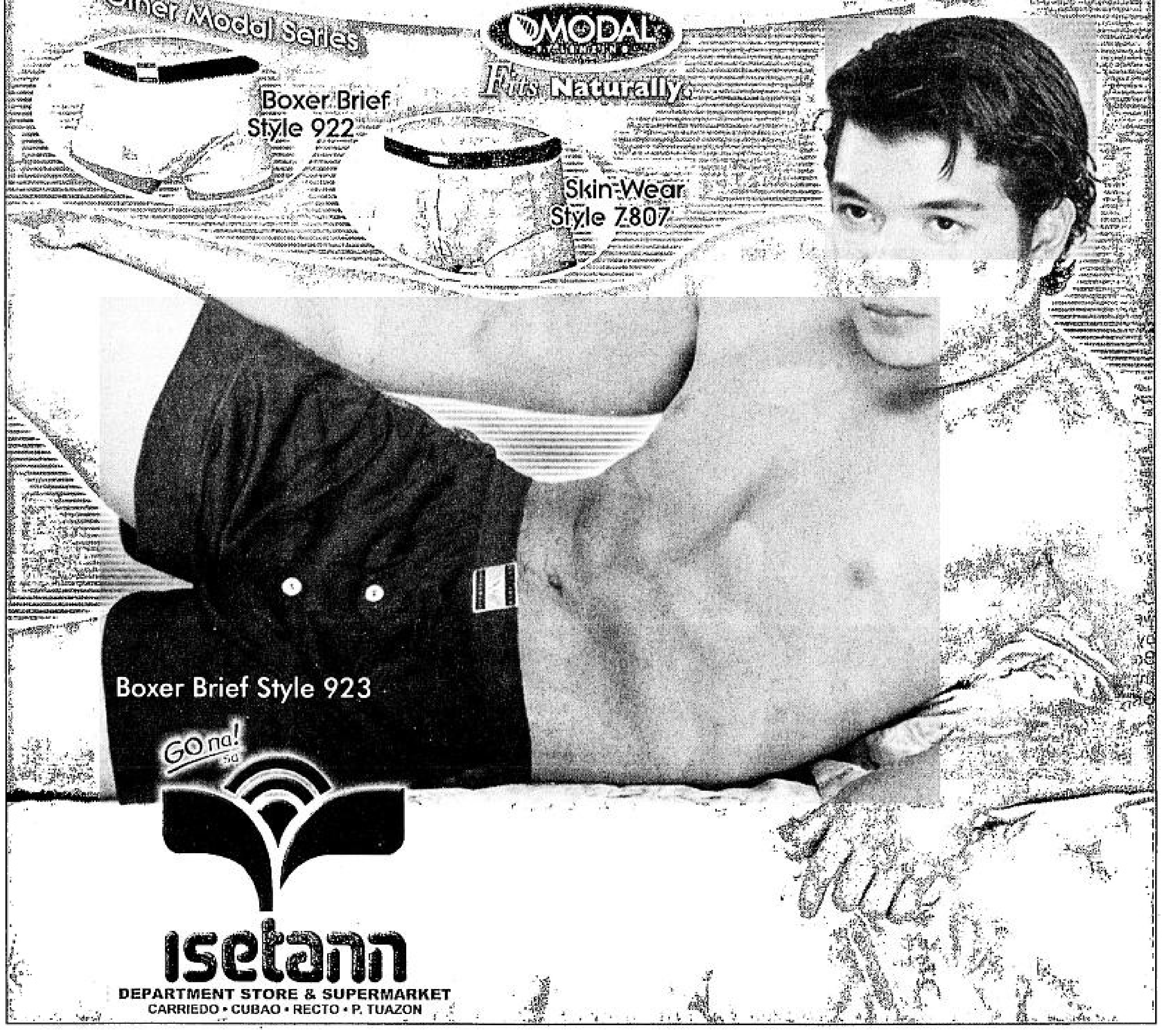

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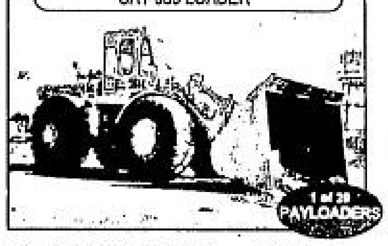

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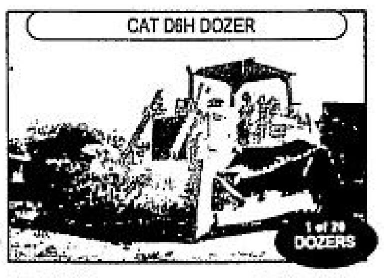

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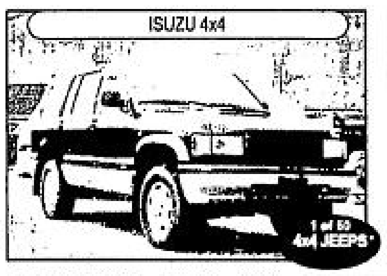

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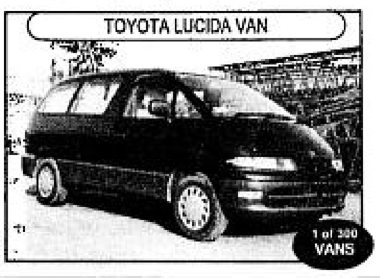

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Schmidt outscores Jabbar

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil—Brazilian basketball player Oscar Schmidt surpassed the world point record Saturday, eclipsing the mark of NBA legend Kareem Abdul Jabbar, according to Brazilian score counts. The 43-year-old Schmidt scored two points for his club Flamengo against Fluminense in the Rio de Janeiro state meet. The game was interrupted to celebrate the 46,727th point of his career, two more than Abdul Jabbar's 46,725-record. *AP*

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▨ **EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA**, Assistant Editor

Davenport vs Dokic anew

LINZ, Austria—Defending champion Lindsay Davenport of the US subdued seventh-seed Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria 6-2, 6-2, Saturday to move into the finals of the $565,000 Generali Ladies WTA tournament. The win—the 11th in a row for the American—set up a duel with Jelena Dokic of Yugoslavia, who beat Iroda Tulyaganova of Uzbekistan, 6-2, 4-6, 6-0. Davenport defeated Dokic last week in Zurich. *AFP*

Panthers rip Gins, advance

Games Wednesday (Philsports)
5:05 p.m.—Red Bull vs Alaska
7:10 p.m.— Purefoods vs Sta. Lucia

WITHOUT an import, Ginebra was easy picking for a highly motivated Pop Cola squad last night.

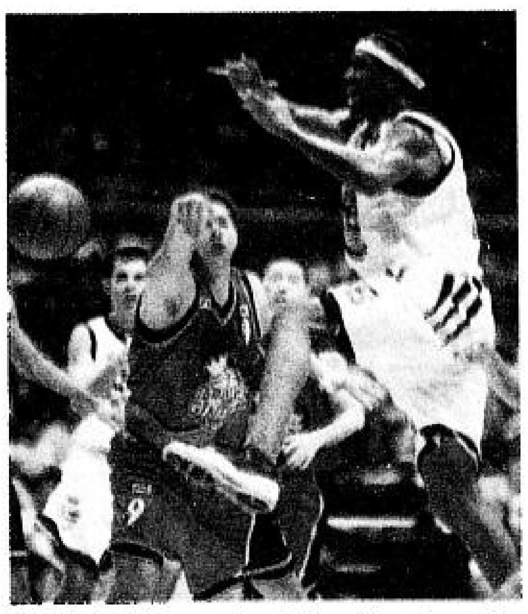
The Panthers formally entered the PBA Governors Cup quarterfinals with an 83-71 victory over the Kings at the Araneta Coliseum.

Silent but effective worker Roselle Ellis and Poch Juinio tore apart Ginebra's middle defense, while Johnny Abarrientos, Ato Morano, Rudy Hatfield and Estong Ballesteros kept the Kings shaking their heads in disbelief with fiery performances.

Pop Cola improved its record to 6-5, good enough for a seat in the quarterfinals while putting coach Chot Reyes' into solid contention for a Magic Four slot and the twice-to-beat privilege which goes with it.

Ginebra, which played its second straight game minus the injured Mark Jones, dropped to 4-7, putting into jeopardy its bid to make the next round.

Alaska, Purefoods and Tanduay are sporting 3-7 win-loss slates, making the race for the remaining quarterfinals slots very exciting.



ELLIS (right) loses the ball as Limpot applies pressure. ROMY HOMILLADA

Unable to get a replacement for Jones, Coach Allan Caidic reshuffled his men throughout, hoping to stem the tide in Ginebra's favor. But sans an import, the Kings were beaten off the boards and their halfcourt offense lacked the needed juice to be effective.

Ginebra's bright moment came only in the second half when backcourt partners Jay Jay Helterbrand and Mark Caguioa sizzled and Elmer Lago poured in three triples which gave the Kings a 31-29 edge.

In the second game, Shell Turbocharger fortified its bid for a Magic Four slot with a masterful 86-71 triumph over sluggish Red Bull.

The victory snapped Red Bull's three-game winning streak as it dropped to 5-5. *Dennis U. Eroa*

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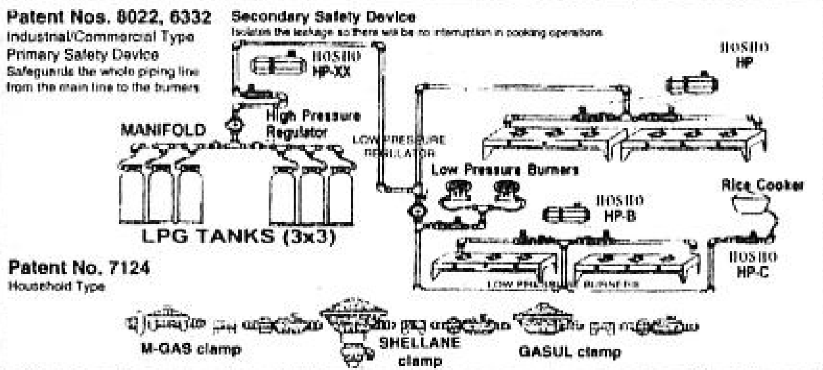

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BEWARE OF IMMITATIONS!

Lakers repeat over Patriots

Games Wednesday (Tinga Gym)
3 p.m.—FedEx Laguna vs Socsargen-Taguig
USLS Bacolod
5:30 p.m.—Andok's San Juan vs Negros

CABANATUAN CITY—Chris Clay sizzled from afar while Jeffrey Flowers ruled the boards as the FedEx Laguna Lakers repeated over the Nueva Ecija Patriots, 110-83, yesterday in the MBA Second Phase at the Araullo Gym here.

Showing why he's the league's most prolific scorer, Clay fired 51 points, barely missing the league all-time high of 52 set by teammate Biboy Simon in 1998. He was able to eclipse Simon's freethrow mark (18 for 18), however, by sinking all of his 22 tries.

The 6-foot-8 Flowers, on the other hand, grabbed 25 rebounds to smash Romel Adducul's 24 boards as the Lakers ruled the paint, 68-52.

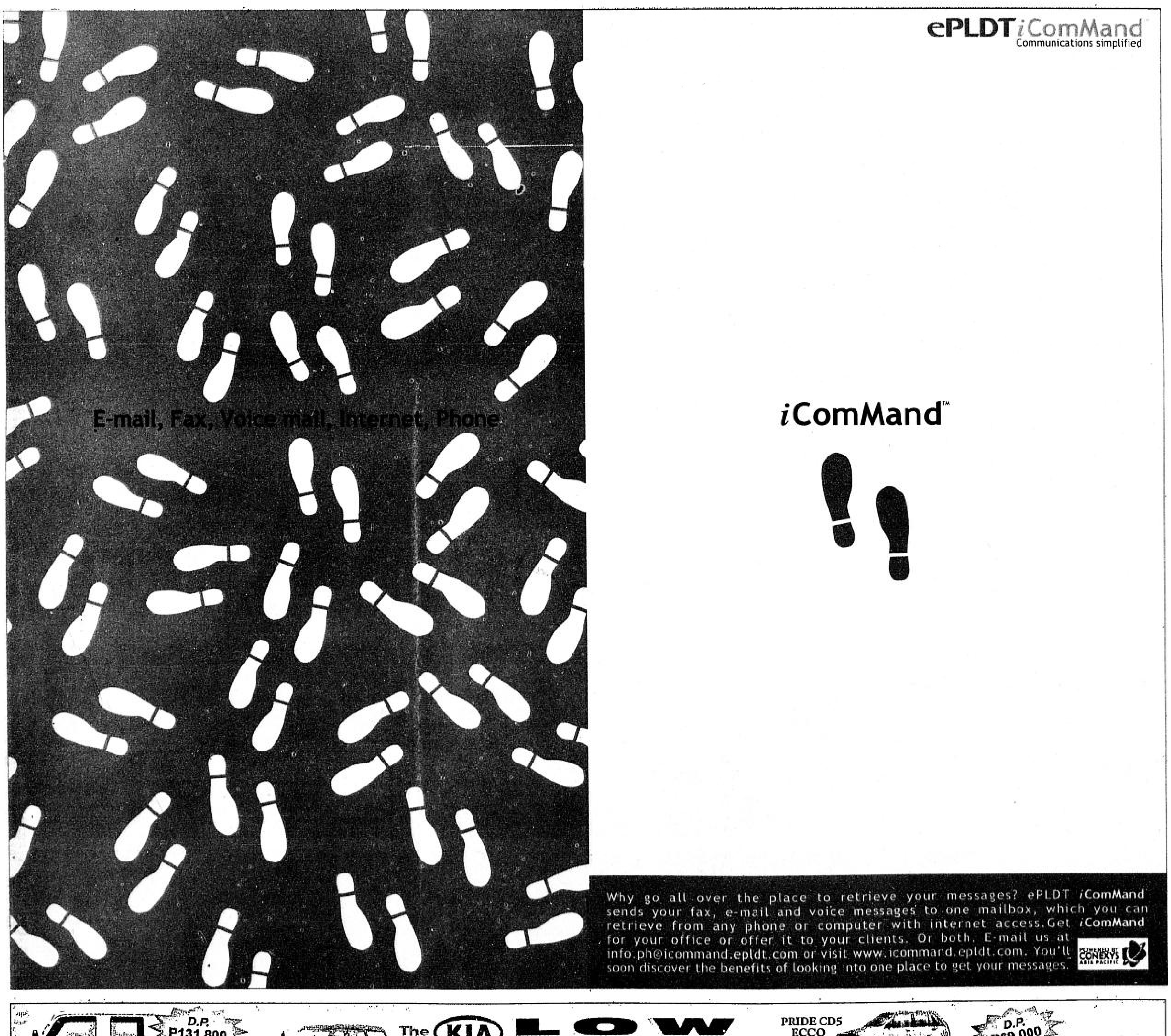
FedEx Laguna just coasted along to tally their fourth straight victory for a 6-win, 3-loss slate in the Northern Conference. Nueva Ecija, which also bowed to FedEx Laguna (109-66) in their first encounter, suffered its seventh straight defeat after winning its first two games.

TPG Davao bested Cebuana Lhuillier, 135-112, behind the guns of Genesis Sasuman in the other game in Davao City. *Roy Luarca*

FEDEX LAGUNA 110—Clay 51, Melencio 13, Simon 9, Regidor 6, Flowers 6, Barbosa 5, Manigo 4, Nicdao 4, Domingo 4, Menor 4, Mendiola 2, Garcia 2.

NUEVA ECIJA 83—Aquino 15, Bautista 13, Ferma 10, Bansil 9, Manucat 6, Malonzo 6, De Guzman 6, A. De Guzman 4 Punzalan 4, De Guia 4, Bunyi 3, Chaneco 3.

Quarters: 21-21,46-42,79-58,110-83.



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KIA

Bare Eye: PSC survives traditional politicking A26

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Cemetery security tightened A26

BOO!
Going with his mother to the Divisoria market, this boy gets an early Halloween trick from a security guard whose lifelike mask he does not find funny. JOAN BONDOC

'Yes to tourists, no to garbage'

BY GREG REFRACCION,
PDI Central Luzon Desk

BAGAC, Bataan—Hundreds of school children and members of religious and civic groups in this coastal town yesterday marched around the town proper to denounce the plan to dump Metro Manila's garbage in a landfill in their community.

The marchers carried placards that said "*Bataan, bantayog ng kagitingan, hindi basurahan* (Bataan a monument to heroism, not a garbage dump)," "Yes to *turista*, no to *basura* (Yes to tourists, no to garbage)."

Bataan Rep. Enrique Garcia Jr., who joined the marchers, told residents that a referendum could be held so that Bagac residents could decide whether they would allow Metro Manila's garbage to be dumped in their town.

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Drug testing for drivers starts today

BY AGNES E. DONATO

ANYONE may operate a drug testing center, according to Land Transportation Office (LTO) Chief Edgardo Abenina, who also said there would be no monopoly in the implementation of the drug test program for drivers.

The drug tests for drivers start today.

Abenina gave the assurance after Powerbrokers, an organization of drug testing operators, expressed fear that there would be a monopoly in the distribution of drug testing kits.

"The LTO is open to any private companies that would apply for accreditation," the LTO chief said. "Be assured that we would not give anyone special favors."

But Abenina stressed that the LTO would only intervene in the implementation of the program and not in determining the amount of supply and kits that would be used in the drug test.

The LTO's participation would be limited to the processing of applications and accreditation of drug testing centers, he said.

DRUG TESTING/ A26

Malabon police chief robbed, beaten up

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

SUPT. Ernesto Fojas, the chief of the Malabon police, was robbed of more than P200,000 by a dozen drunken men who also beat him up in Tondo, Manila early yesterday.

Other policemen arrested three of the 12 suspects.

Fojas, who is a co-owner of the Paul billiard hall and computer rental store on Hermosa corner Limay streets in Tondo, told the INQUIRER the men beat him up after he ran after about 15 teeners who were throwing stones at the billiard hall.

The suspects also beat up Fojas' helpers, Allan E. Padilla and Philip F. Ceron, said investigator PO3 Gordius Alundro of the Western Police District-theft and robbery section.

MALABON/ A26

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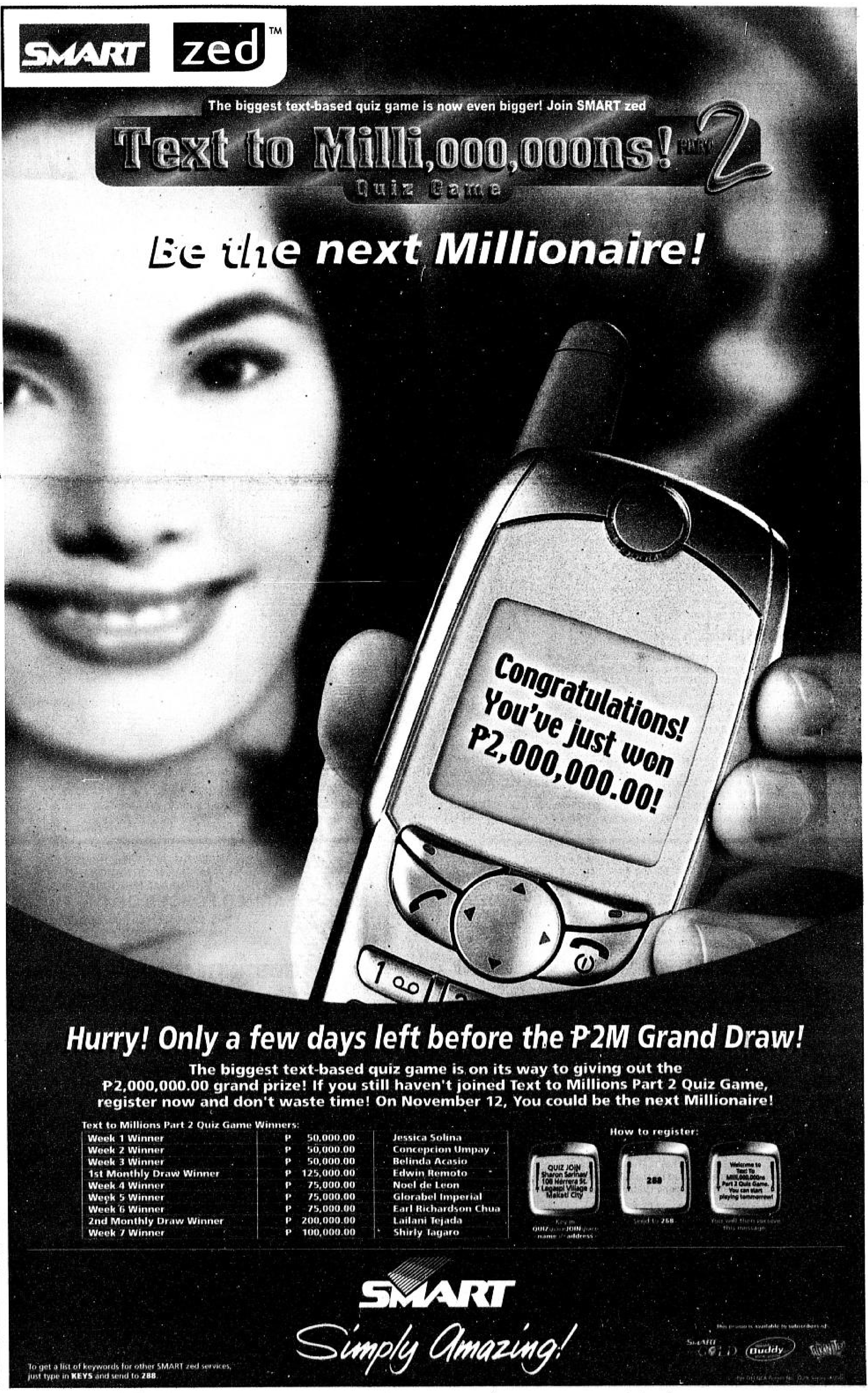

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PSC survives through traditional politicking

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

IT'S the silly product of a rumor factory, declared President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. Then insisting that her government was stable, the President flew to Hong Kong yesterday morning.

As expected, not everybody believed what she said. Talk of a power grab persisted.

Anyway, if she had instead sent her scouts to the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex on Thursday, Ms Macapagal would've gotten wind of an impending coup.

It could not, of course, be called a full-fledged power grab, but it looked very much like a relative, a first cousin, of the real thing.

We mean here the protest vigil staged by the Athletes and Coaches Association of the Philippines whose members were demanding the outright resignation of top Philippine Sports Commission officials.

In fact, the full impact of that mass action was defused by a sly move that effectively barred military athletes, headed by Acap president Jaime Sebastian, from manning the first burst of the protest vigil.

It was estimated that the barring of military athletes had reduced the force of that initial salvo by no less than 75 percent.

* * *

Sebastian, considered the most bemedalled Filipino participant in the Southeast Asian Games, had told backers that three soldiers fetched him from his house very early in the morning on Thursday.

He was next inexplicably held in camp and was not released until 7 p.m. on the same day.

Just like Sebastian, military athletes all set to man the protest action were ordered to immediately report for duty.

"We are inclined to believe this move was initiated by the PSC chair," bared athletics president Go Teng Kok, "because it was a certain Col. De la Torre, a member of Butch Tuason's staff in the KL Sea Games, who had Sebastian fetched from his house."

If it were not deprived of its initial force, Go said the protest vigil could have gained enough ground that could lead to the desired power shake-up at the PSC.

Of course, the mass action has not been totally crippled.

Acap members, who have vowed to sustain their protest until top PSC officials step down or are replaced by President Macapagal, left the parking lot in front of the PSC administration building for the weekend.

They have, however, promised to return in full force today. Until, of course, another unexpected move comes to bar military athletes from joining in the mass action.

* * *

By the way, at least two PSC commissioners, Cynthia Carrion and William Ramirez, have already offered to step down from their posts.

Carrion herself was an appointee of President Macapagal, much unlike Chair Tuason and Commissioner Richie Garcia, who were both put in the PSC by Erap Estrada.

Observers, naturally, read the offers of Carrion and Ramirez as an acknowledgement of mounting charges against the PSC.

There have been charges of gross mismanagement, topped by corruption and immorality inside the government sports agency.

The growing fear, of course, is that no changes might be forthcoming because the PSC, deficiently and defectively run as a sports agency, is being slyly managed like a political body.

* * *

For example, the failure of the RP delegation, which got pitifully stuck at fifth overall in the last SEA Games, had been hugely marketed to be a success, thanks to the shameless backing of the First Gentleman, Mike Arroyo, who also announced the retention of his first cousin, Butch Tuason, as PSC head even before the athletes could pack up for home.

That media blitz, featuring the very controversial husband of the President, was undoubtedly a sleek political maneuver.

Next, after Tuason, very much like a traditional politician, failed to deliver on his grandiose promises and athletes rose in arms again, dirty politics again reared its ugly head.

We mean here the effective dissipation of that first cousin of a coup being mounted by the Acap headed by weightlifter Jaime Sebastian.

When the hue and cry over Tuason's head threatened to become deafening, another dirty political solution was made when participating members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines were called to camp on Thursday.

Today, Monday, the protesting athletes have vowed stronger action.

The mass disenchantment around the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex definitely is no mere rumor.

But we still don't know what political solution the PSC has up its dirty sleeves.

METROBRIEFS

2 killed in QC

BROTHERS Danilo and Babelito Villareal were drinking with their friend Glenn Hina in Quezon City when three men armed with long guns arrived on board a tricycle and shot at them, police said yesterday. Danilo, 42, of Senatorial Road, Barangay Batasan Hills, was killed, while Hina, 19, was seriously injured, said PO2 Joseph Madrid of the Quezon City police criminal investigation division. Danilo died from several gunshot wounds in the body. Hina suffered a head gunshot wound. Babelito managed to run. Also in Quezon City, Nestor Bandal, 43, of Barangay Samson, Balintawak, was drinking with a friend yesterday when a man identified only as Pepe joined them and then shot him dead with a .38 revolver, police said. The suspect fled with his gun. *Agnes E. Donato*

Cabbie found dead

TAXI driver Mario D. Paray, 22, was found dead in his cab in Port Area, Manila about 30 minutes after three men boarded his cab in Malabon. Paray, of Dagat-dagatan, Caloocan City, died from several stab wounds in the body, police said. But police are at a loss to explain why Paray's wallet containing P900 was left by the men, whom they suspect to be robbers preying on taxi drivers. Another taxi driver, Ronelo A. Evangelista, found Paray's body about 10 p.m. on Saturday. He told police he saw the cab was not properly parked so he went to check on his friend whom he thought was only sleeping. But he found Paray slumped on the steering wheel and his shirt was drenched in blood. *Philip C. Tubeza*

Rape or extortion?

A 17-YEAR-OLD guest relations officer accused businessman Marlon Tan, 34, of raping her in a private room at the Classmate KTV nightclub in Quezon City. But Ricky Fernandez, manager of the club, had the GRO arrested, along with Leo Villan, People's Brigada tabloid publisher and owner, on Saturday in the office of lawyer Romeo Manalo in Ermita, Manila, by members of the National Bureau of Investigation's Special Task Force for allegedly extorting from Tan P500,000 in exchange for dropping the case against Tan. Villan and the girl, however, insisted the rape had taken place and that they were negotiating an amicable settlement with Tan when they were arrested. The girl told the NBI's Violence Against Women and Children Division that club managers had forced her to entertain Tan, who forced her to drink liquor and then raped her. When club owners failed to help her, she sought the help of Villalon and filed a complaint with the NBI. *Jerome Aning*

Because of spiders

A GAME of spider duel led to the death of Jose Villareal, 27, of Barangay Ibaba, Malabon, after his opponents Giovanni Magbiray, his brother Gerald and an unidentified companion shot him in the abdomen, police said. Villareal and the other men were betting against each other in a spider duel on Thursday when the suspects began losing and asked Villareal to lower his bet. When Villareal did not agree, the men left but returned with a .38 revolver and shot him in the abdomen, police said. The suspects have gone into hiding. *Andrea Trinidad-Echavez*

Over garbage

UNCOLLECTED garbage triggered a fistfight between Joselito J. Martin, 30, and his neighbor Michael B. Balbiran in Tondo, Manila. The fight ended with Martin stabbing Balbiran dead on Thursday night, police said. Barangay official Boyet Roxas arrested Balbiran before he could escape. *Philip C. Tubeza*

Malabon police chief robbed, beaten up

(From page A25)

Alundro said the arrested suspects were Rene Loreto, 50; Michael L. Lopez, 24; and Rolando T. Bantig, 31, all residents of Manuguit, Tondo.

At large are brothers Jun, 40, and Leo Barrientos, 43; and Terio Yu, 45, and nine others, Alundro added.

The investigator said Fojas lost his service firearm, a cal. 45 pistol worth P150,000, an 18K gold necklace worth P80,000, and a necklace with pendant.

Fojas said his billiard hall was about to close around 1:20 a.m. yesterday when he arrived to tell his sister, who is his co-owner, about the death of a relative.

He said he was surprised to see 15 young men, suspected members of the Lambda street gang, stoning his computer store. The young men also went into the billiard hall and beat up Padilla and Ceron, Fojas said. They used a softball bat on Padilla, Alundro said.

Fojas said he identified himself as a policeman and told the boys to stop. When they ignored him, Fojas was forced to fire a warning shot in the air, the police chief said.

The teeners ran in the direction of Pilar Street and Fojas ran after them. But he couldn't catch up with them, so he went to the barangay hall to see Barangay 198 Zone 18 chair Erlina Miranda.

Miranda was out of town.

After he left the barangay hall, Fojas met the men whom he would later accuse of robbing and beating him. They were attending a wake and drinking beer, he said.

"I told them to tell the teenagers not to make trouble in the billiard hall," Fojas said.

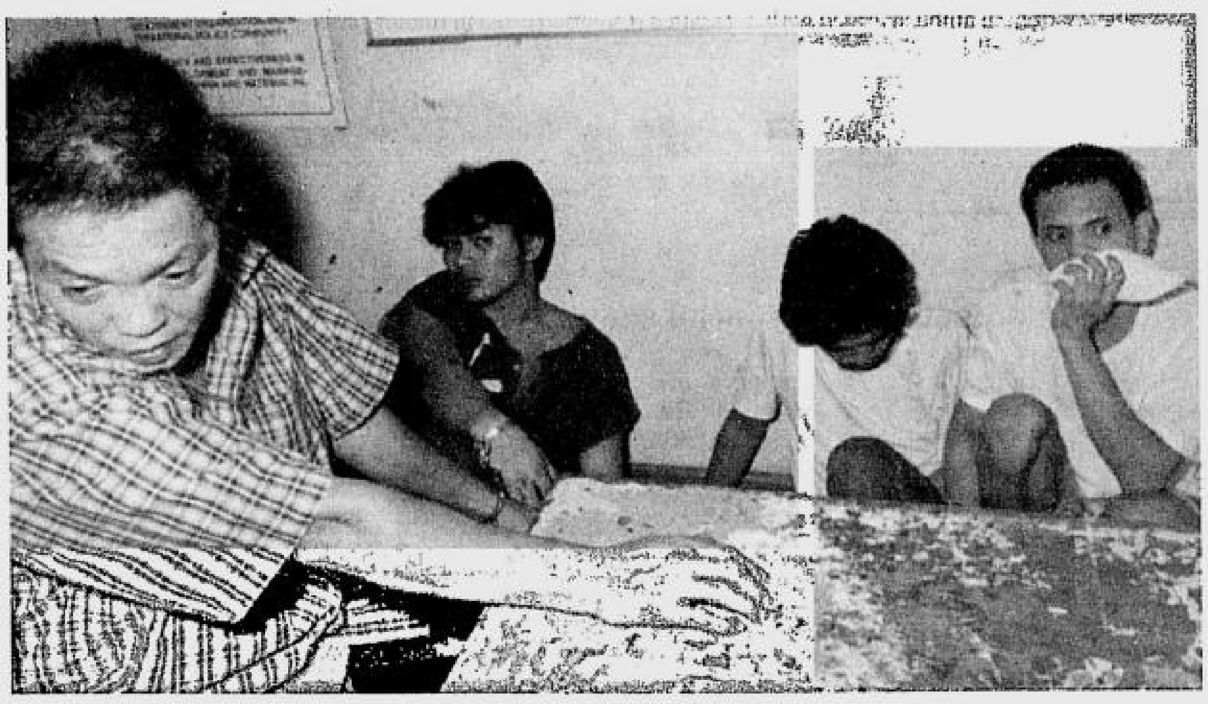
But as he was about to leave, he heard somebody curse. He said he saw the Barrientos brothers and Loreto approaching him.

He said the men ganged up on him. Jun punched him while his brother Leo tried to strangle him, Fojas said.

He said Loreto bashed him with a plastic chair. Nine other men joined them and took his gun, ring and necklace, he said.

The suspects only stopped when policemen from WPD Station 7 arrived and arrested Loreto, Lopez and Bantig.

Alundro said the suspects would be charged with multiple physical injury, robbery, and frustrated murder before the Manila prosecutor's office.



SUSPECTS (from left) Rene Loreto, Michael Lopez, Orlan Quito and Rolando Bante are detained for allegedly robbing and beating up Fojas. JESS YUSON

Drug testing for drivers starts today

(From page A25)

The Department of Transportation and Communication would be the one to determine if a laboratory conducts legitimate drug testing.

An earlier report said that a "superbody" called Drug Net was controlling the price and distribution of drug testing kits.

The drug testing program covers all professional drivers, as well as non-professional and student license applicants.

A drug test will cost P300.

Accredited drug testing centers were asked to post a P200,000 bond or P500,000 in GSIS surety bonds with the LTO drug testing committee.

The government would forfeit the bond if the laboratory would be found to have been involved in any illegal operations such as the submission of anomalous certificate of test results, non-compliance with standard drug testing requirements and misrepresentation in the filing of application for accreditation.

'Yes to tourists...'

(From page A25)

"They cannot do anything if you really don't want that landfill built in your town," Garcia told the crowd, referring to the Metro Manila Development Authority and the national government which have been pushing for the construction of the landfill here.

Garcia said Bagac residents could also petition their officials to formally register their opposition to the project.

"If they ignore your petition, a referendum should be held in Bagac to decide on the issue," he said.

Last March, the Bagac municipal council passed a resolution that approved the sanitary landfill project in Barangay Quenawan here to accommodate garbage from Metro Manila.

"*Hindi sila puwedeng maghugas-kamay dahil wala silang ginagawang pagtutol* (They should not wash their hands on this issue because they are not doing anything to oppose this project)," Garcia said, referring to Bagac officials.

Gov. Leonardo Roman has been telling local officials that the provincial government does not favor the use of an ordinary landfill or open dumping in the disposal of waste.

Residents claimed that the MMDA had bought 300 hectares in Barangay Quenawan for P300 million.

The site, more than 20 kilometers away from Bagac town proper, is suitable for industrial factories and is accessible by barge and other seacraft.

Cemetery security tightened

EASTERN Police District Office Director George Aliño has ordered a tighter security in all nine cemeteries in eastern Métro Manila during All Saints' Day.

The move is part of the Philippine National Police's Oplan Kaluluwa 2001, Aliño said.

He explained that only a skeletal force would be retained for administrative work in police offices. All manpower available would be sent to the streets for maximum police visibility.

Plainclothes policemen would also be deployed in cemeteries.

Aliño said his office has coordinated with all local government units in eastern Metro Manila in taking security measures in all private and public cemeteries in San Juan town and in the cities of Mandaluyong, Pasig and Marikina.

Civic organizations have also pledged manpower and logistical support, he said.

He said his office is also coordinating with the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority and the traffic enforcement units of local governments in eastern Metro Manila in drawing up traffic contingency plans.

He warned that the Nov. 1 traffic jams could cause another unfortunate incident like what happened at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina a couple of years ago when a traffic altercation led to a shooting that caused the death of a pregnant woman and the wounding of one of her children. *Nelson F. Flores*

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DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
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bac_secretariat_afpmp@hotmail.com

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the ***CONSTRUCTION AND DELIVERY OF TWO (2) FAST CRAFT UTILITY (FCU)*** of the Philippine Navy with an approved budget of ***One Hundred Forty Four Million Pesos (Php 144,000,000.00)*** under the **AFP Modernization Program.**

Only bids from entities who are themselves the shipbuilders/manufacturers of the **FCU** and can provide certification that the **FCU** being offered is used by the Armed Forces of the proponent's country of origin or being used by the Armed Forces of at least two countries shall be entertained. Said **FCU** should be a proven hull design certified by Ship Classification Society Class + 100 A1.

Bid documents will be available for issuance starting ***October 30, 2001*** during office hours at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability, Material and Technology Development, J9, AFP, 3rd Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment of ***Fifteen Thousand Pesos (Php 15,000.00)*** which is not refundable. The form of payment will be in cash or cashier's check in favor of the AFP Modernization Act Trust Fund.

A Special Power of Attorney, issued by the prospective Bidder authorizing its representative to purchase the bid documents in its behalf, shall be required before issuance of bid documents.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on ***November 14, 2001*** at ***2:00 PM*** at *Silid Panday Pira, OJ9, 1st Floor Bulwagang Mabini, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.* Prospective bidders may submit their queries in writing to the BAC Secretariat prior to the Pre-Bid Conference.

Deadline for submission of applications for eligibility statements and the bid envelopes shall be on ***December 7, 2001*** at ***9:00 AM*** (*local time*) after which the Opening of Bids shall immediately follow. Venue is at *Silid Panday Pira, OJ9, 1st Floor Bulwagang Mabini, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.*

The AFP reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expense or loss that may be incurred by the Bidder in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) **LTGEN GREGORIO M CAMILING JR AFP**
The Deputy Chief of Staff, AFP
Chairman, BAC

(PDI – Oct. 29 & 30, 2001)

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites interested manufacturers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the ***SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ARMORED RECOVERY VEHICLE (ARV)***, with an approved budget of ***Sixty-Five Million One Hundred Twenty Thousand Pesos (Php 65,120,000.00)*** under the **AFP Modernization Program.**

Only bids from suppliers who are the manufacturers themselves of said equipment shall be entertained.

Bid documents will be available for issuance starting ***October 30, 2001*** until **November 15, 2001** during office hours at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability, Materiel and Technology Development, J9, AFP, 3rd Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment of ***Ten Thousand Pesos (Php 10,000.00)*** which is not refundable. The form of payment will be in cash or cashier's check in favor of the AFP Modernization Act Trust Fund.

A Special Power of Attorney, issued by the prospective Bidder authorizing its representative to purchase the bid documents in its behalf, shall be required before issuance of bid documents.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on ***November 15, 2001*** at ***2:00 PM*** (*local time*) at *Silid Panday Pira, OJ9, 1st Floor Bulwagang Mabini, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.* Prospective bidders are required to submit their queries in writing to the BAC Secretariat prior to the Pre-Bid Conference.

Deadline for submission of applications for eligibility statements and the bid envelopes is on ***December 6, 2001*** at ***9:00 AM*** (local time) after which the Opening of Bids shall immediately follow. Venue is at *Silid Panday Pira, OJ9, 1st Floor Bulwagang Mabini, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.*

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expense or loss that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) **LTGEN GREGORIO M CAMILING JR AFP**
The Deputy Chief of Staff, AFP
Chairman, BAC

(PDI – Oct. 29 & 30, 2001)

LADIES AND A GENTLEMAN

Female lawmakers in the 12th Congress call on President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang. With them is honorary member Rep. Willie Villarama (back, third from left). Leading the lady legislators' group are president Cynthia Villar of Las Piñas, vice president for Luzon Josephine Ramirez-Sato, VP for Visayas Ma. Victoria Locsin, VP for Mindanao Glenda Ecleo, secretary Zenaida Cruz-Ducut, treasurer Uliran Joaquin, auditor Lorna Silverio, and PRO Aleta Suarez. The women vowed to pursue pro-women, youth and family legislations.

Family of slain UP student set for long court battle

By Agnes E. Donato

THE FAMILY of slain University of the Philippines student Den Daniel Reyes yesterday said their lawyers would appeal the Department of Justice resolution recommending the dismissal of homicide charges against the suspected killers of Reyes for "lack of probable cause."

Reyes' brother John Michael said his family did not expect the wheels of justice to roll so slow for them, even as they prepare for an even longer battle in court.

"Our lawyers will definitely appeal (the DOJ) resolution," John Michael told the Inquirer in an interview.

Reyes was a member of the Alpha Phi Beta fraternity when he was stabbed to death on Feb. 10, 2000 during a rumble with the Sigma Rho Fraternity in front of the UP Law Center in Diliman, Quezon City.

Fulgenio "Bibit" Factoran III, son of former Environment Secretary Fulgencio Factoran Jr., Gil Taway IV and Marcelo Rongo were tagged as Reyes' killers.

They were earlier charged for Reyes' murder with the Quezon City prosecutor's office, but assistant city prosecutor Francisco Soller downgraded the charge to homicide.

In a resolution of a petition for review filed by the defense, Justice Undersecretary Ma. Merceditas Gutierrez set aside Soller's resolution and recommended the dismissal of the homicide case against the accused.

Gutierrez gave weight to the statements of "disinterested witnesses" Emelita Labrador and security guards Asher Ablanida and Rogelio Banjao Jr. who said "it was the unarmed respondents who were mauled and attacked by a group of hooded persons who were waiting for them in ambush armed with sticks and baseball bats."

Gutierrez also maintained that the evidence "was considerably weakened and damaged" by the fact that Vicente Jimenez and Keven Camagay, both members of the Alpha Phi Beta fraternity, did not reveal to the hospital security guards the names of the suspects when they were asked.

Jimenez and Camagay, who brought Reyes to the East Avenue Medical Center after the stabbing, claimed to have seen the assailants. They also said Reyes had also told them who had attacked him. Still, they kept silent about the identities of the alleged assailants.

"This unexplained silence of the eyewitnesses evokes disbelief and renders doubts on their subsequent identification of the respondents as the assailants of Den Daniel Reyes," Gutierrez said.

Gutierrez concluded "we find that the assailed resolution erred in finding probable cause against respondents for homicide."

Manila has only 17 firetrucks

By Jerome Aning

MANILA councilors should display the same vigor they showed in demanding for the closure of the Pandacan oil depot when it comes to keeping the city safe from fires, according to a firemen's organization

Even as it lauded the city council's determination to shut down the fuel terminal, the United Fire Fighters of the Philippines Inc. on Saturday said the lawmakers should also be "equally concerned" with the ill-equipped city fire department.

UFPPI spokesperson Alvin Estrada said the city's 15 fire stations only have 17 firetrucks. In contrast, Manila's volunteer fire brigades have thrice as many fire trucks that are also more sophisticated.

Estrada said he found out in a recent tour of fire stations that only six of the city-owned fire trucks could be truly relied upon. The rest, he said, are "basically operational but could not withstand rigorous operations."

After the phaseout controversy is finally settled, the Council should focus its efforts in funding the modernization of Manila's fire stations, Estrada added.

He said the city government should not wait for the interior department and the Bureau of Fire Protection because the funds allocated for fire truck procurement and maintenance are "insufficient." The release of funds is also "slow and very much politicized," he added.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, October 29, 2001
30th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Rom 8:12-17
Gospel: Lk 13:10-17

Jesus was teaching in a synagogue on the sabbath and a crippled woman was there. An evil spirit had kept her bent for eighteen years so that she could not straighten up at all. On seeing her, Jesus called her and said, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." Then he laid his hands upon her and immediately she was made straight and praised God.

But the ruler of the synagogue was indignant because Jesus had performed this healing on the sabbath day and he said to the people, "There are six days in which to work; come on those days to be healed and not on the sabbath."

But the Lord replied, "You hypocrites! Everyone of you unties his ox or his donkey on the sabbath and leads it out of the barn to give it water. And here you have a daughter of Abraham whom Satan had bound for eighteen years. Should she not be freed from her bonds on the sabbath?"

When Jesus said this, all his opponents felt ashamed. But the people rejoiced at the many wonders that happened through him.

Commentary

For the Jews the Sabbath is most sacred. It is for them the sign that they are the Chosen People of God, set apart from other nations. On this seventh day, they must refrain from work. To guard the Sabbath, the Jewish teachers keep a list of prohibitions. Healing is one of them, except in cases of emergency. Here now is a woman with an orthopedic problem. Even to our judgment, it is not an emergency. Jesus can heal her the next day without violating the Sabbath rest. It will not make a difference. Unexpectedly Jesus does it on the Sabbath. What does Jesus want to prove? For Jesus, every suffering is an emergency, an urgent call for help. ***Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cnl.net; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org*** *(Claretian Publications Inc.) &* ***http://missionaries.claret.org*** *(Claretians in the Philippines)*

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

POLITICAL LAW (ADMINISTRATIVE LAW)—Definitions of agency, department, bureau, office and instrumentality—An agency is defined by statute as any of the various units of the Government, including a department, bureau, office, instrumentality, or government-owned or controlled corporations, or a local government or a distinct unit therein. A department "refers to an executive department created by law." A bureau is understood to refer "to any principal subdivision of any department." In turn, an office "refers, within the framework of governmental organization, to any major functional unit of a department or bureau including regional officers. It may also refer to any position held or occupied by individual persons, whose functions are defined by law or regulation." An instrumentality is deemed to refer "to any agency of the National Government, not integrated within the department framework, vested with special functions or jurisdiction by law, endowed with some if not all corporate powers, administering special funds and enjoying operational autonomy, usually through a charter. This term includes regulatory agencies, chartered institutions and government-owned or controlled corporations." [Justice De Leon Jr., Second Division, United Residents of Dominican Hills Inc. v. Commission on the Settlement of Land Problems, G.R. No. 135945, March 7, 2001]

Digest by R.B. Vera

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- Internet systems development
- Systems integration

Content Development
- Animation
- Engineering and design
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- Transcriptions
- Website Development

◆ E-novation - schools, institutions, or individuals with innovative IT projects that can be marketed/offered

◆ E-Citizen - government agencies with existing on line services

◆ Trade Services - IT Parks, training institutions, publishing houses, ISPs

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Andrew Lloyd Webber not writing another musicale

NEW YORK — The world's most famous musical theater composer without a new show?

The tunes and melodies are there, some 30 new songs at last count that really please him, but "I haven't got a home for them," says Andrew Lloyd Webber when asked if he is writing another musical.

"I can't find a subject I want to do," confesses the man behind the music for "Cats," "The Phantom of Opera," "Evita," "Jesus Christ Superstar" and more.

Still, he's enormously proud of his most recent work, "The Beautiful Game," which closed Sept. 1 in London after a financially unsuccessful run of less than a year.

"The best score I've ever done," the composer says without equivocation.

And then there's "By Jeeves," a tenacious little Lloyd Webber musical that had its North American premiere in 1996 and has been working its way to New York ever since. It finally arrives on Broadway Oct. 28 with a generous financial boost from its composer.

Lloyd Webber, who, with a consortium of four other Brits, put in $800,000 after two investors pulled out of the $1.7 million production following the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11.

"Broadway has been very good to me," said Lloyd Webber in explaining his decision. "Originally, I had nothing to do with this production at all, other than having written the music."

'By Jeeves'

The 53-year-old composer sat in the spacious kitchen of his 60th floor, mid-Manhattan apartment, made himself and a guest strong cups of coffee and talked about "By Jeeves" and what the future holds for him and musical theater.

"By Jeeves," in one form or another, has been with Lloyd Webber since 1975 when he and playwright Alan Ayckbourn did a short-lived musical version in London called "Jeeves" that starred David Hemmings as P.G. Wodehouse's intrepid manservant.

"I think three songs survive," the composer said of the original work. "And of those, only one of them survives intact. 'By Jeeves' is, in effect, a completely different musical with a completely new script and a completely new score. It's not even based on a Wodehouse book. It's based on the characters rather than a book."

Ayckbourn, a prolific playwright in his own right who will be represented later this season off-Broadway with "House and Garden," wrote the book and lyrics for "By Jeeves," first done in London six years ago.

The American production began life at the Goodspeed Opera House in Connecticut the following year, traveled to Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., and eventually Pittsburgh's Public Theatre, before trying to make it to Broadway last spring, but it couldn't find a theater.

The musical now stars John Scherer as Bertie Wooster, Wodehouse's cheerfully oblivious upper-crust Englishman, and Martin Jarvis as Jeeves, who gamely steers Bertie through life.

Mammoth entertainments

" 'By Jeeves' is not a big musical," said the man usually associated with mammoth entertainments that feature crashing chandeliers, roller skating railroad trains and a crowd of singing and dancing felines.

Lloyd Webber has written more musicals -- 11 -- than America's most famous theater songwriting team, Rodgers and Hammerstein, who together wrote nine stage shows.

To commemorate Lloyd Webber's more than three decades in musical theater, Decca Broadway is releasing in late November a five-CD set of his songs. Called "Andrew Lloyd Webber Now and Forever," it includes selections from all his shows as well as recordings from his private archives.

Among the rarities: the composer himself singing a song from "Cats" as well as a more than 30-year-old radio ad for "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. *AP*

Raymond takes off robe, takes advantage of virgins

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

WHEN **Raymond Bagatsing** accepts a role, he makes sure he sinks his teeth into that particular portrayal.

So when he was offered to play a religious cult leader in the new **Gil Portes** opus, "Huwag Kang Kikibo," Raymond immersed himself in the role. While filming in Laguna and Quezon provinces, where religious cults do exist, he prayed, meditated and communed with nature to live the part.

Raymond is himself an Ananda Marga. Early this year, he tied the knot with stage actress **Lara Fabregas** in an Ananda Marga rite. So he takes film offers according to his personal convictions and beliefs.

After bagging Urian best actor trophies for "Kriminal ng Barrio Concepcion" and "Milagros," Raymond has been searching for another challenging role. In "Huwag Kang Kikibo," he plays a powerful, lustful false prophet.

It took him quite some time to find a real good project, as he studied some offers and rejected a few. But when "Huwag Kang Kikibo" was offered to him, Raymond knew he found the right vehicle, so he readily gave a nod.

He feels the role is similar to **Nora Aunor**'s role in the late **Ishmael Bernal**'s "Himala," where she played a faith healer who attracted a multitude of believers.

In "Huwag Kang Kikibo," Raymond is an enigmatic preacher and faith healer who warns his tribe about the impending end of the world. But he also uses his charisma to take sexual advantage of women, especially virgins.

Starring with Raymond is **Priscilla Almeda**, as a confused girl who finds peace, love and contentment in the arms of the preacher and the religious community he founded in a remote town.

Raymond's role required him to go naked in his love scenes with Priscilla, **Via Veloso** and **Camille Roxas**.

"Huwag Kang Kikibo" is written by **Ricky Lee** and produced by Teamwork Productions.

Busy Candy

WHEN **Candy Pangilinan** married Globe telecom executive **Gilbert "Choi" Alvarado** last March, most people thought she would say goodbye to show biz and live a private life as a wife.

But although she is happy and content in her married life, she also has a steadily rising show biz career.

"I'm very lucky because my husband didn't make me choose between career and family after we got married," Candy shares. "He knows that I enjoy what I'm doing so he's even very supportive."

In fact, Candy is even busier now with several projects up her sleeves.

Last month, she joined the hosts of ABS-CBN's early morning program, "Alas Singko y Medya," where she does a stand-up comedy act as the maid Minihaha on weekends. She talks about current events and domestic issues and tries to inject humor into **Joel Saracho**'s script.

"Doing stand-up comedy on TV is harder because you don't get the instant reaction of the audience, unlike in live shows," Candy allows. "If the TV viewers don't like what they see, you can disappear in a second because they hold the remote control.

"There are things you can't even say because you can be easily censored. But it has been a challenge for me. It's something new. It's very different from acting in a sitcom or doing a gag show. But I welcome it."

Candy also joins the cast of ABS-CBN's new primetime program, "Wattamen," with the wacky trio of **Rico Yan, Marvin Agustin** and **Dominic Ochoa**, plus comedienne **Al-Al de las Alas.**

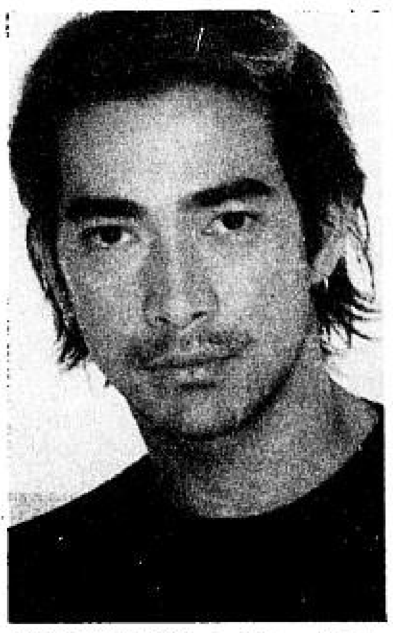
On ABC 5, she is also a mainstay of the weekly gag show, "Ispup."

However, Candy makes sure she turns down a project if it will conflict with her other commitments. And she makes it a point to discuss the offers with her husband.

"I don't just decide for myself now. I have to tell my husband my career opportunities and the other offers."

She claims that after six months of married life, she has mastered the "art" of balancing the demands of career and of marriage. She is coping and she is coping well.

PANGILINAN. Steadily rising show biz career.



BAGATSING. Sinks his teeth into every portrayal.

DJs give embarrassing show on 'TWL'

WE WATCHED a recent episode of Viva Television's "The Weakest Link," where all eight contestants were DJs, including **Mo Twister, Chico** and **Delamar, Miles** and **Jimmy Jam.**

The players turned in a dismal performance, especially since most of the questions they failed to answer pertained to music.

One DJ didn't know who is the brother of the late singer **Karen Carpenter.** Even those who weren't born in the '70s are familiar with Richard, the other half of the popular Carpenters duo.

Another question one DJ couldn't answer was, "Which group sang 'Aubrey'?" Bread, led by **David Gates**, popularized the song as well as a string of other hit ballads such as "Diary," "Everything I Own" and "Guitar Man."

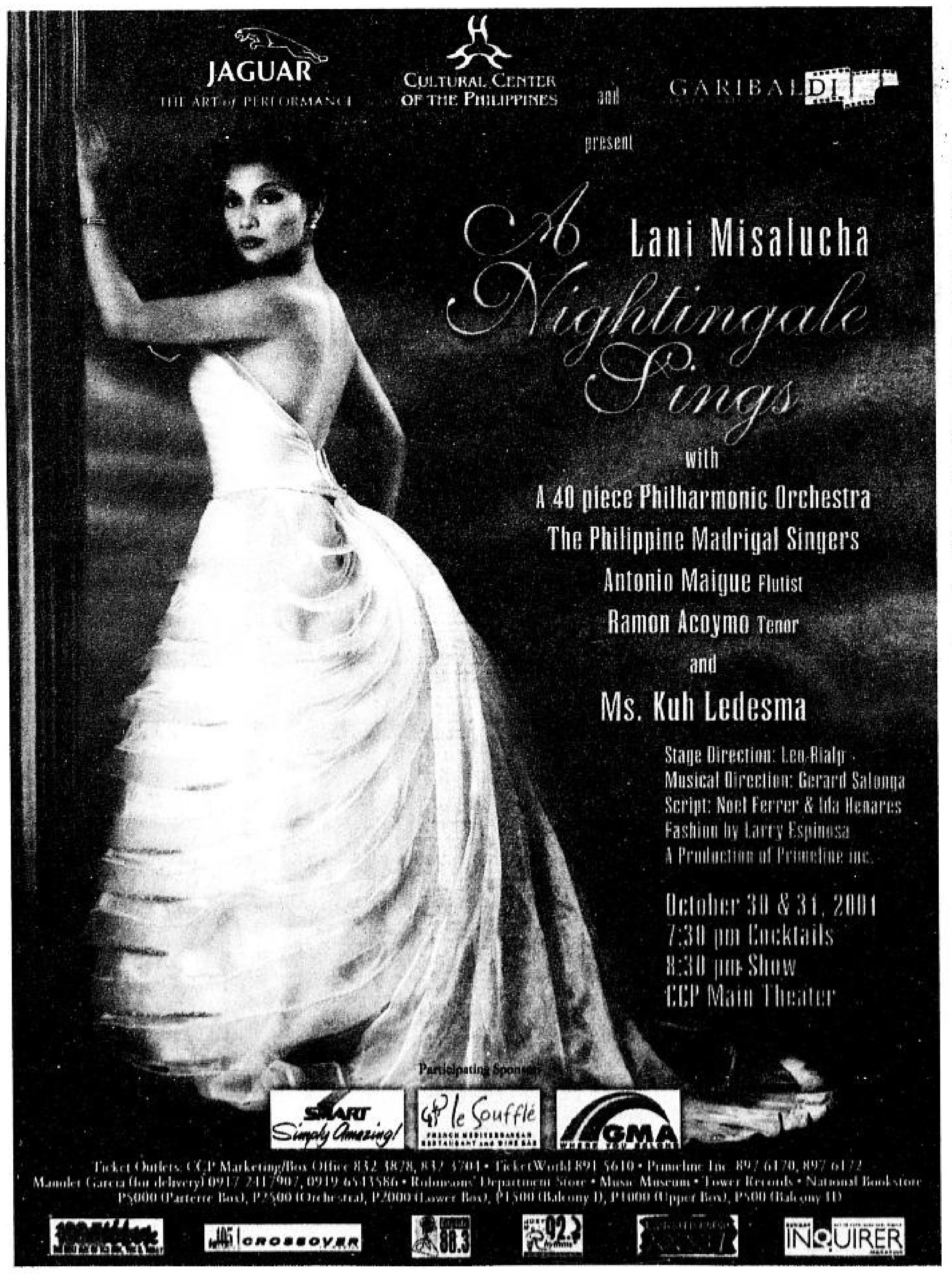
Even in Original Pilipino Music (OPM), one DJ was apparently not in tune with local recording artists. "Whose OPM singer released the album, 'Divas and I'?" **Janno Gibbs** sang with the likes of **Regine Velasquez, Kuh Ledesma** and **Jaya** in his latest album. The DJ didn't know.

I know recording companies give complimentary CD copies first to radio stations before they give to journalists or record reviewers. It's embarrassing, if not unforgivable, that the DJs didn't know the answers to these questions.

More reasons for embarrassment: **Annie Lennox** is the former lead singer of what band? Eurythmics. Who recorded the duet "Don't Go Breaking My Heart" with **Elton John? Kiki Dee.**

A certain Chris gave one funny answer when "The Weakest Link" host **Edu Manzano** asked, "What is the regulating body of Philippine broadcasting?" Chris said, "MTRCB."

These DJs are supposed to live and breathe music. Their listeners think they're nothing less than music experts



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Boy Abunda special gathers most interesting personalities

A TV special, "2001 Most Interesting Personalities with Boy Abunda," brings together 11 fascinating people in the first-ever talk TV special.

Gary Valenciano and Martin Nievera go way beyong rivalry in an exclusive back-to-back revelations.

Ayen Munji-Laurel takes viewers to her journey as a princess and fourth wife in a foreign kingdom.

McCann Erickson head Emily Abrera recalls her struggling years in the male-dominated world of advertising.

Actor Piolo Pascual teases the audience with his most private thoughts and personal contradictions.

Rio Diaz offers meaningful prayers to her loved ones.

Senators Ralph Recto and Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan prove they stand on their own without their respective superstar spouses — Vilma Santos and Sharon Cuneta.

Tessa Prieto-Valdez gives an account of her very colorful life in black and white.

Ernie Baron shares his heart and emotion, more than his knowledge power.

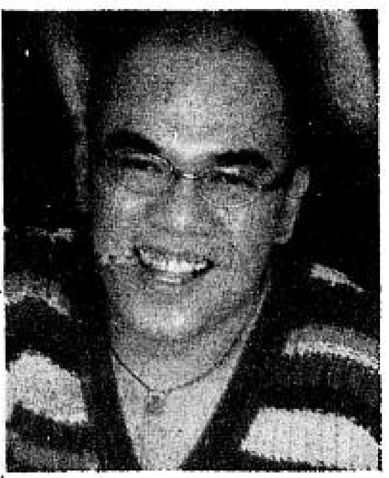
Col. Victor Corpus reveals explosive facts and figures that are never heard before.

Boy Abunda, as host, explores, explodes and exposes like no one. This time, he gives his all in every interview with the personalities. In return, they gave their all to him.

"2001 Most Interesting Personalities with Boy Abunda" airs Nov. 11, 9:30 to 11:30 p.m. on ABS-CBN.

The show has a pool of directors, namely Bobby Garcia, Luigi Santiago, Jojo Saguin, Alco Guerrero and Abner Mercado.

Writers are Dolly Ann Carvajal, Senedy Que and Ann Torres.



ABUNDA. Explores, explodes and exposes like no one in the TV special.

Why Dolphy is king

(From page A32)

for the entire time he was supposedly hosting. His executive producer wanted him to wear my bright red-orange coat and he donned it readily, regardless of the fact that it was a snug fit, especially in his shoulders.

Lean looker

I also bumped into Vandolph, my *kumpare*, since he's one of Josh's godfathers. The Inquirer was very accurate when it reported several weeks back that Vandolph was now a lot slimmer and has turned out to be goodlooking.

Vandolph told me he now works out regularly, plays basketball, and he really watches his food intake. I asked him if I could meet his girlfriend, and he told me that she was there visiting him in his taping but she had wandered off with some of his co-stars and he had to go look for her.

Randy Santiago, John Estrada, and Amy Perez all passed by my dressing room on their way out of ABS in the early afternoon. They all had nice tans, courtesy of "MTB"'s US tour, in particular courtesy of their last stop, Hawaii.

Amy was happily relating to me how sweet the Pinoys in the US were and they had so many gifts for her to bring home to her son Adi.

Junjun and Sherilyn

Since "The Buzz" was doing a feature on the marital woes of Randy's brother Junjun and his wife Sherilyn Reyes, I couldn't help but ask, when Randy and I had a brief chat, how Junjun was doing.

The Santiagos are real gentlemen. It was evident that Randy was hurting for his brother, but he chose his words carefully and he just made it very clear that their clan was solidly behind and supportive of Junjun.

During my "Today with Kris" days, I'd gotten the chance to interview the young couple several times. I know for a fact that they married twice, once in a civil rite and again in church, at the Archbishop's Palace if I'm not mistaken. It was on my show that they admitted their first wedding, which they had managed to keep secret for nearly a year.

We even did an episode about young moms and dads right after Sherilyn gave birth. I was always left with the impression that they were loving and supportive of each other. Hopefully, whatever differences they have can still be worked out, and that a reconciliation is still possible.

Real life vs ads

By Rey S. Mendoza

GRACIA of the PLDT commercials is Gina Celso in real life.

PROBABLY one of the greatest problems besetting the Philippines is the inability of its people to distinguish between silver screen actors and real-live persons. Unfortunately, to many people, they are inextricably one and the same.

Thus, character actors or *contravidas* in movies and soap operas endure people's taunts and risk physical harm as they go about their daily, unsecured lives.

But the cinematic hero or *bida*, foolish in real-life or not, is always blessed and hardly finds its difficult to whip up sympathy, support, following, or votes of the adoring masses.

Foolish people even lay their lives for the cause of a foolish movie idol, even as he is tried for plundering the same foolish people that voted him President.

The foolishness does not stop at movies, however, because its ugly head also bobs in the advertising cesspool.

Too bad, people and authorities still need to fathom the fact that movie actors and screen talents are paid to perform roles and mouth words that really have nothing to do with their personal lives or beliefs.

This despite thousands of signed documents to the contrary in the cobwebby cabinets of the Advertising Board of the Philippines, which is the only private institution in the world solely dedicated to reinforcing the fictional oneness of the reel and the real.

So, is Gracia of the PLDT commercials the object of gay rumor-mills because she is—on account of her job as body piercer and tattoo artist in real-life —not an ideal daughter-in-law and wife to Billy?

Should Rudy Fernandez be flailed for endorsing a brand of cigarette when everyone knows he doesn't smoke?

Why, the fat megastar even shares a table with pleased customers when she eats at a burger chain! Now, Bad Boy Robin Padilla, a devout Muslim-convert, is crucified for endorsing a beer brand (when no believer of Islam imbibes alcoholic drinks, at least, in public) by pronouncing the "*walang iwanan*" line in his script.

How conveniently do authorities and opinion leaders forget that the operative principle of moving images is the suspension of disbelief.

Actors don't actually die in tragedies, actresses are not really raped, and Robin did not actually exhort a return to savagery when he said "walang iwanan" in the beer commercial. He was really reading a script.

We only have ourselves to blame if we do it like the foolish masses do.

Can't we relax and see a TV commercial without actually believing it?

We have seen beer poured onto someone's crotch, too. Do we ponder over the implications of the visual stimulus and then rant and rave over issues of gender and sexuality? Or do we simply shrug it off with the thought that beer in general and strong beer in particular sells and sells on the basis of crotch power?

I can almost feel the reader wanting to vent his ire instead on the advertiser, Mr. Moneybag, who wields economic power and makes the world go round. Don't even think about it.

The ads, just like the movies, are make-believe images illuminated by money.

What you see is not what you get. But take the money out of the picture and you won't see any picture at all.

(The author who reacted to the protest of certain sectors against the Billy-Gracia-Joey commercial is an advertising executive with over 25 years of marketing experience.)

A lesson in social science

By Dara Villonco

"IS YOUR mom going to the fashion show?"

"No."

"Oh good. Can we use her tickets?"

"We can't. They're non-transferable."

And that's how it all started.

I didn't want to go. I had just returned from Europe and the last thing I wanted to do was schmooze. Why in the world would I want to go to a fashion show in Manila, of all places? Paris, New York, London, but here?

Of course that was the snotty little brat in me being condescending, as usual. But hey, I decided to give it a chance. I had seen a sneak preview of the clothes earlier and they looked good. Besides, I had never been to a real fashion show and this was supposed to be *the* event of the year. So I went.

"What do you mean they're non-transferable?"

"It's a mother-daughter thing."

"So? No one is going to be able to use those tickets. Who are they going to invite at the last minute?"

"Do you have any idea how many social climbers there are in Manila dying to get those tickets?"

The first obstacle was finding something that fit. Getting glammed up and strapped into a gown is not my idea of fun; it is actually a pain worse than death. After rummaging through my closet, I found an outfit that made me look presentable to the general public. I was all set.

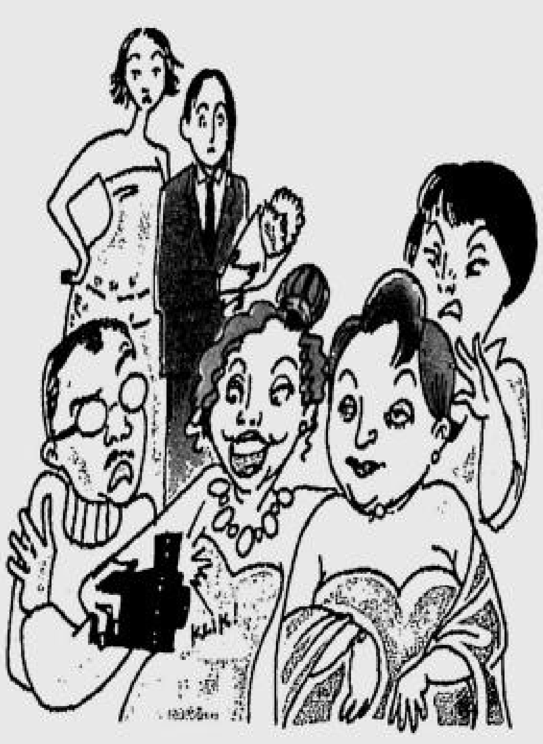
Hot air

I walked into that room and was blinded by the gaudy brilliance of jewelry, the overpowering scent of perfume, and loads of attitude. If that tent were a helium balloon, it would have exploded with all the hot air that was in it. Anyone who has ever wanted to pretend to be someone else was there in full force. It was an anti-social person's nightmare.

Let's get one thing straight: I like clothes, but not fashion shows. Not here anyway. Fashion shows in Manila are a joke. Nobody goes to a show to see the clothes; they go to see themselves in the paper the next day.

A fashion show is not only a display of craftsmanship and creativity on the part of the designer but an event meant to bolster the superfluous egos of the people invited to it. It sucks because even though the show is supposed to revolve around the talents of the designer, his success depends on the people who actually have the money to buy his clothes. Money talks.

There are four kinds of people that go to these shows— the artists, the socialites, the wannabes and the critics.



The Artists consist mainly of the designer and production people working behind the scenes. These are the people whose work you're supposed to appreciate since they're the ones who conceptualize and work on the show in the first place. Without their creativity and talent, there wouldn't be one.

They are usually the ones running around making sure that everything goes smoothly. They are easily distinguishable since they are the ones *not* wearing designer clothes or jewelry which they can't afford because they are grossly underpaid for their ideas.

Not buying

The Socialites are the people who add to the prestige and exclusivity of the event just by their mere presence. Just because you have money does not mean you qualify as one of them.

These are the people the photographers love to photograph. All they have to do is stay in one spot and everyone else flocks to them. Everyone knows who they are and they are usually sought out by Wannabes for a photo opportunity. They're also the most likely to have appreciation for the clothes since they're the ones who can afford to buy a whole outfit but don't.

They are not conscious about themselves and who they're with because they're so used to the fuss going on around them that they don't have time to give a hoot about anything. They only schmooze with people they know and are usually the first to leave once the show is over. Nothing excites them more than the fact that they can go home, take off their constricting corsets, slap on a Noxzema mud mask and watch who's going to get booted out of "Survivor Africa."

There is a thin line between the Critics and the Wannabes. Critics like to think that they are doing society a favor by dictating what's in and what's out. They delude themselves into thinking that they are privy to the thoughts of "the inner circle" when all they really do is write *chismis.*

They think they are refined and sophisticated since they are invited to the same parties as the *sosyals.* But what it really boils down to is that they really are just court jesters designated to amuse and entertain.

Desperate

A Wannabe is someone who desperately wants to belong to the Socialites' world but can't quite make the cut. They are usually the ones wearing the biggest—but not necessarily the best—jewelry and designer clothes from head to toe. If the Socialite is the trendsetter, the Wannabe is a devout follower.

Wannabes are constantly working the room with body language that always seems to say, "Look at me! Look at me!" They are never caught off-guard by the camera only because they are constantly looking for it.

They always look like they're smelling something bad and will expect you to know who they are. They usually have names like Prosperity and have daughters called Topaz and Peridot.

They will never smile at you first unless you show them your family tree. These are the people involved in highly publicized charitable organizations but they cringe when the poor touch them.

The Wannabes have the hardest job since they are the ones who try so hard not to be themselves.

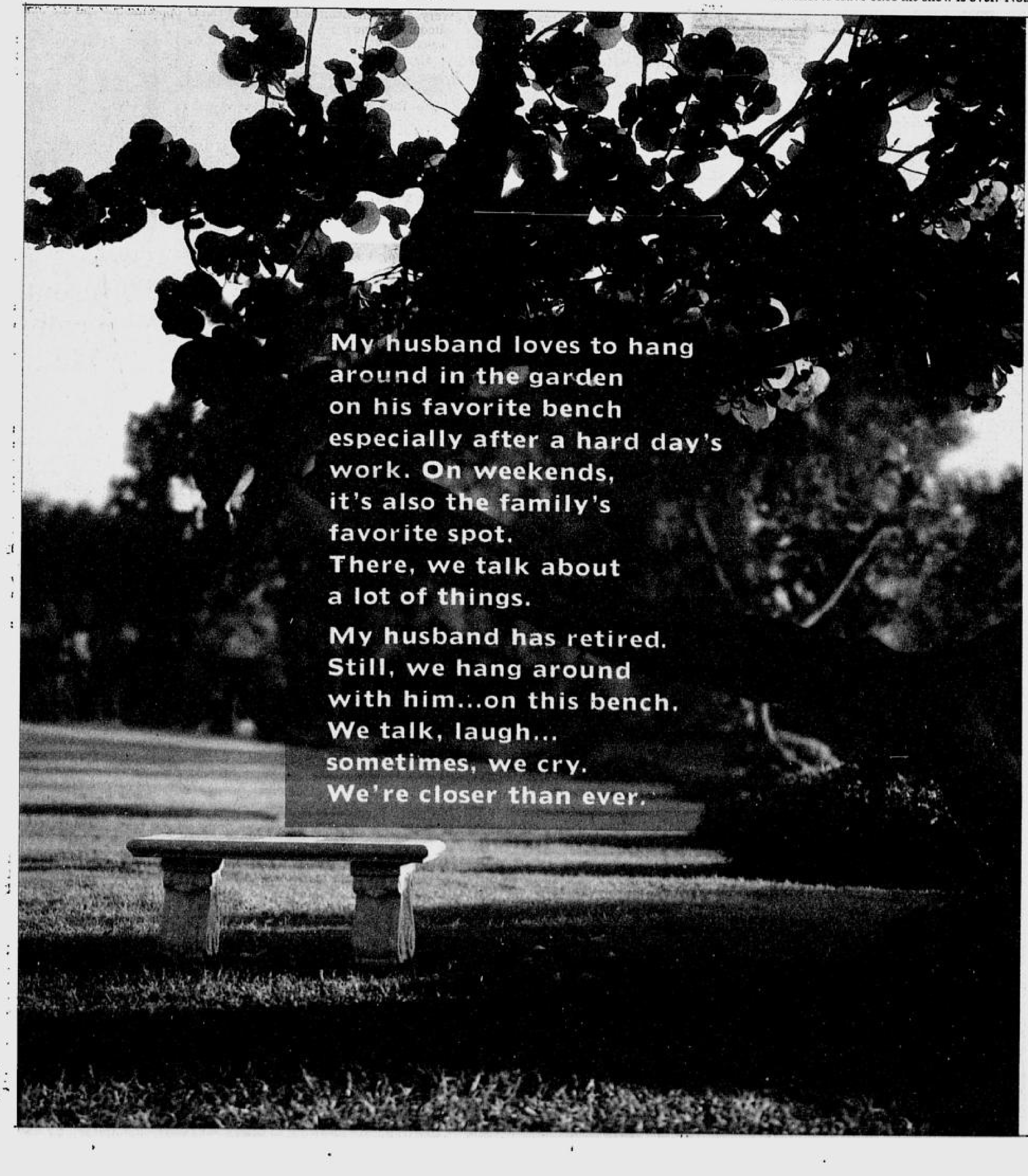
Watching

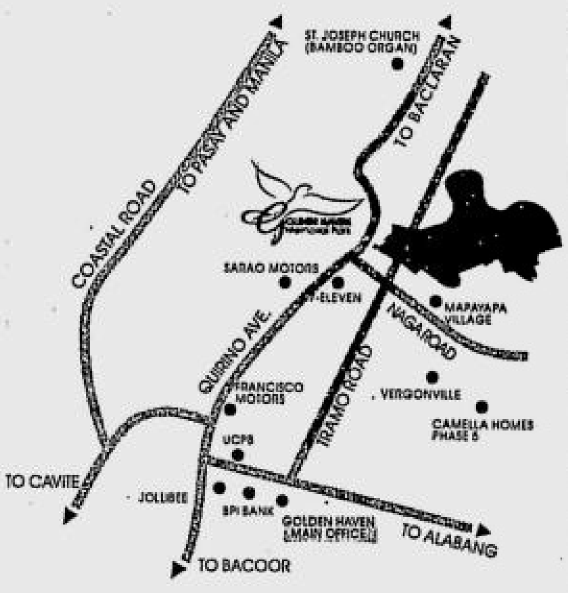
As I was standing in that room watching these folks interact with each other, I couldn't help but smile. I came to watch a show but instead I got a lesson in social science. I realized that everyone was a Wannabe in their own frustrated way, trying to fill a void that would give them some semblance of wholeness and well-being.

It's not about knowing how wealthy you are or what family you come from. It is what you do to enrich other lives that makes a dent in society.

As for me, I just wan to be filthy rich so I can have people kiss my a— and bitch to my heart's content. But for now, I'm just a fly on the wall, watching.

(The watcher is 26. She studied in Florence, Italy for a year and has written articles for local magazines.)





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10	BUBBLE BOY
11	MANANABAS
12	PROFESSIONAL FIGHTERS

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2	DOS EKIS
3	THE ONE
4	MANANABAS

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2	MANANABAS
3	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
4	DOS EKIS
5	THE ONE
6	LEGALLY BLONDE
7	AMERICAN PIE 2
8	TRAINING DAY
9	BUBBLE BOY
10	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
11	PRINCESS DIARIES
12	HIYAS

SOUTHMALL
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1	THE ONE
2	MANANABAS
3	AMERICAN PIE 2
4	LEGALLY BLONDE
5	HIYAS SA PARAISO
6	BUBBLE BOY
7	DOS EKIS
8	TRAINING DAY
9	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
10	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

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2	CLOSED
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7	CLOSED
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5	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
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5	BUBBLE BOY (Sneak Preview) In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	LEGALLY BLONDE In DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	AMERICAN PIE 2 In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT

1	TRAINING DAY In DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2	CLOSED In SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	THE ONE (Sneak Preview) In DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4	SNAPSHOTS & PORTRAITS NOV. 10, 16, 17 - 8 PM NOV. 11, 18 - 3 PM Onstage

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1	THE ONE THX (Sneak Preview) In DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2	TRAINING DAY In DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	LEGALLY BLONDE In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	'LEGALLY BLONDE In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	DOS EKIS In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

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EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS)	13 DAYS
2 (SDDS)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
3 (DTS)	TRAINING DAY
4 GOLD (DTS)	LEGALLY BLONDE
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	BUBBLE BOY
6 GOLD (SDDS)	AMERICAN PIE 2
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	THE ONE
8	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
9	DOS EKIS
10	THE BODY

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	
2	
3 (DTS)	MANANABAS
4	
5	MARITAL RAPE
6 (DTS)	EXTREME FORCE

Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	DOS EKIS
2	LEGALLY BLONDE
3	HIYAS

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	DOS EKIS
2	MANANABAS
3	THE ONE
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TRAINING DAY
5	HIYAS

METROPOLIS star
(Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	HIYAS
2	THE ONE
3	MANANABAS
4	DOS EKIS
5	LEGALLY BLONDE
6	TRAINING DAY
7	RESERVE
8	RESERVE

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2011 to13

1	THE ONE

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	MANANABAS
2	TRAINING DAY

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515

1	MANANABAS
2	EXTREME FORCE
3	THE ONE

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
A	MARITAL RAPE

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	TRAINING DAY
2	DOS EKIS
3	HIYAS
4	THE ONE

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	DOS EKIS
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	AMERICAN PIE 2
5	HIYAS
6	DOS EKIS
7 (DTS)	LEGALLY BLONDE
8 (SDDS)	BUBBLE BOY
9 (DOLBY)	TRAINING DAY

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	DOS EKIS

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	DOS EKIS
2	DOS EKIS
3	MANANABAS
4 (SDDS)	BUBBLE BOY
5	HIYAS
6 (DOLBY)	THE ONE
7 (DTS)	TRAINING DAY
8	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
9	LEGALLY BLONDE

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	TRAINING DAY
2	DOS EKIS
3	BUBBLE BOY
4	HIYAS
5 (SDDS)	LEGALLY BLONDE
6	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
7 (DOLBY)	THE ONE
8	RESERVE

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	THE ONE
2	DOS EKIS
3 (DTS)	TRAINING DAY
4	HIYAS
5 (SDDS)	LEGALLY BLONDE

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	DOS EKIS

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	DOS EKIS

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	SIN OF THE NIGHT
Lords	NAKED NIGHT
Jennet	

THE MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	TRAINING DAY
2	DOS EKIS
3	HIYAS

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	DOS EKIS

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	DOS EKIS
2	TRAINING DAY
3	HIYAS
4	MANANABAS
5	LEGALLY BLONDE

New Divisoria Mall DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	DOS EKIS
2	THE ONE
3	TRAINING DAY
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	HIYAS

Baclaran LRT LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	RESERVE
2	HIYAS
3	DOS EKIS

Berma
tel 879.2029

1	MANANABAS
2	DOS EKIS

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	MANANABAS
2	DOS EKIS
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2196

1	THE ONE
2	DOS EKIS
3 (DTS)	LEGALLY BLONDE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	THE ONE
2 (DTS)	DOS EKIS
3 (DOLBY)	AMERICAN PIE 2
4	LEGALLY BLONDE

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	DOS EKIS
2 (DOLBY)	AMERICAN PIE 2
3 (DTS)	LEGALLY BLONDE
4	THE ONE

Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	SCARY MOVIE
2	MANANABAS
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	THE ONE
2	HIYAS
3	DOS EKIS
4 (DTS)	TRAINING DAY

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	THE ONE
2	DOS EKIS
3 (DTS)	LEGALLY BLONDE
4	MANANABAS
5	HULI SA AKTO

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8083

1	DOS EKIS
2	LEGALLY BLONDE
3	THE ONE

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	DOS EKIS
2	LEGALLY BLONDE
3	13 DAYS

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	MARITAL RAPE
2	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
3	MANO MANO

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	EXTREME FORCE
2	THE HOLE
3	THE ONE

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	HULI SA AKTO
2 (DTS)	

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2365

1	CLOSED

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	HULI SA AKTO
2	MANANABAS
3	DOS EKIS

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	NAKED NIGHT
2	OSMOSIS JONES
3	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
4	HULI SA AKTO

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	AMERICAN PIE 2
2	DOS EKIS
3	SOON TO OPEN
4 (DTS ES)	MANANABAS

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

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3	THE BODY
4	13 DAYS
5	DOS EKIS
6	TRAINING DAY
7	TOWN & COUNTRY
8	AMERICAN PIE 2
9	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
10	TRAINING DAY

ERMITA
536-7809 TO 12

1	LEGALLY BLONDE
2	DOS EKIS
3	TRAINING DAY
4	AMERICAN PIE 2
5	DOS EKIS
6	INVISIBLE CIRCUS
7	THE BODY

NOVALICHES
935-3229 TO 31

1	TRAINING DAY
2	LEGALLY BLONDE
3	LEGALLY BLONDE
4	TRAINING DAY
5	AMERICAN PIE 2
6	AMERICAN PIE 2
7	DOS EKIS
8	DOS EKIS

IMUS
(046) 471-8168

1	TRAINING DAY
2	DOS EKIS
3	LEGALLY BLONDE
4	THE BODY
5	MANANABAS
6	AMERICAN PIE 2

BACOLOD
(034) 441-0453

1	13 DAYS
2	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
3	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
4	HEARTBREAKER
5	SISID
6	PRINCESS DIARIES

SOON TO OPEN

METRO EAST
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ILOILO

THX · dts · SDDS · DOLBY · DOLBY STEREO

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	MANANABAS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	13 DAYS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	AMERICAN PIE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEART
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	EXTREME FORCE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	THE HOLE
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	NAKED NIGHTS
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	MANANABAS
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	IRA / CLIMAX
ODEON	DOS EKIS
ODEON-2	TRAINING DAY
ROBEN	HIYAS SA PARAISO
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	BROTHERHOOD / STOP
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	HIYAS SA PARAISO
REMAR	DOS EKIS
REMAR-2	MANANABAS
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	MANANABAS
B	NAKED NIGHT
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	LEGALLY BLONDE
CINEMA-2	TRAINING DAY
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	MARITAL RAPE
CINEMA-2	NAKED NIGHTS
CINEMA-3	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	13 DAYS
CINEMA-6	SISID
CINEMA-7	LA VIDA ROSA
CINEMA-8	DOS EKIS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	AMERICAN PIE 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TRAINING DAY
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	LEGALLY BLONDE
CINEMA-12	THE BODY
CINEMA-14	MANANABAS
CINEMA-15	DOS EKIS
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	BUBBLE BOY
CINEMA-2	TRAINING DAY
CINEMA-3	LEGALLY BLONDE
CINEMA-4	THE ONE
CINEMA-5	AMERICAN PIE 2
CINEMA-6	LEGALLY BLONDE
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ISANG LAHI ISANG DUGO
CINEMA-2	LARUANG BUHAY
CINEMA-4	AKO ANG LALAGOT

'The Gift' released on video

SHE was an overnight worldwide sensation after she played a feisty queen of the West in the critically-acclaimed "Elizabeth." Now, multi-awarded actress Cate Blanchett plays another remarkable character in Sam Raimi's southern gothic-thriller, "The Gift."

The film was recently released on video by C-Interactive Digital Entertainnent.

Blanchett plays widower Annie Wilson who uses her telepathic talents to perform psychic reading for a living to feed her three sons.

The back room of her little house in the eerie Brixton, Georgia serves as a venue of disturbed souls, including the sexually harassed auto mechanic

Buddy Cole and battered wife Valerie Barksdale.

Annie's power gets challenged when the town's nymphet disappears.

She was tapped as the star witness at Donnie's murder trial to testify about her specific vivid visions. But her soul was bared, her integrity was questioned and her "gift" was mocked.

Now, she must not only prove the validity of her visions, but also figure out who killed Jessica and stop the real killer before she becomes his next victim.

Available in original VHS and VCD copies, "The Gift" also stars Keanu Reeves, Katie Holmes and Hilary Swank.

For inquiries, call C-Interactive Hotline at 245-5011-12.

VELOSO

Different film role for Via

A NEW crop of sex symbols has emerged lately and each one claims to be the bold queen. Such brazen rivalry has not dampened Via Veloso's morale nor leaves her in a quandary.

"I'm secure because I know where I am now," Via says. "Perhaps, the publicity hype for the other sexpots has made a big difference. *Akala nila mas sikat sila.* In my case, I've proven more. In the past, I've worked with award-winning directors who honed my skills."

In her new movie, "Hiyas sa Paraiso ng Kasalanan" for Leo Films, Via plays a girl who goes wayward but has a meaningful insight and compassion.

Contrary to reports, Vía was not the second choice of her producer. She refused to play second fiddle to Halina Perez since Via has topbilled other sexy movies in the past like "Amorseko" and "Ikapitong Gloria."

In "Hiyas sa Paraiso ng Kasalanan," Via is paired for the first time with Francis Enriquez, who plays her leading man in the movie.

Also starring are Alma Soriano, Katrina Paula, Harold Pineda, Julio Diaz, Daniel Fernando and Lovely Rivero.

Movie titles, then and now

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

AT A recent seminar on film, the talk got around to movie titles, and some of the people present wanted tips for them to come up with "striking," "evocative" or "commercially appealing" titles for the movie projects they were preparing.

We started off by pointing out that the public's preferences are in a constant state of flux, even when it comes to movie titles.

Decades ago, for instance, Hollywood hits went by such weighty and self-important titles as "The Birth of A Nation," "What Price Glory?," "The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse" and "Gone With the Wind."

Later, things relaxed a bit and popular movies bore titles like "An American in Paris," "Singin, in the Rain,", "How to Marry a Millionaire." "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes" and "The Moon Is Blue."

In the '70s, we got "Summer of '42," "the Godfather," "Live and Let Die," "Paper Moon" and "The Way We Were."

The '80s, gave us "Kramer vs. Kramer," "Raiders of the Lost Ark," "9 to 5," "Making Love," "The Color of Money," "Top Gun" and "When Harry Met Sally."

Titles became shorter, in Keeping with the times' no-nonsense mood. One-word titles became popular – "Batman," "Ghostbusters," "Goodfellas," "Unforgiven," "Terminator," "Speed," "Stargate," "Poltergeist" and "Flashdance."

Also, movies with people's names for their titles began to increase in number. This was once thought to be the least creative way to title a movie (aside from calling it "Steven Spielberg's 23rd Film"), but it caught on just the same. The new trend gave '90s movies like "Jerry Maguire," "Thelma and Louise," "JFK," "Bugsy," "Hudson Hawk,' "Barton Fink," "Alladin," "Malcolm X," "Tootsie," "Hoffa," "Mrs. Doubtfre" "Forrest Gump," "Wyatt Earp," "Dick Tracy" and "Edward Scissorhands."

What about striking or evocative movies titles? Some example that come to mind are "Carnal Knowledge," "Terms of Endearment," "Back to the Future," "Dances With Wolves," "Fatal Attraction," "Rebel Without A Cause," "Anatomy of A Murder," "Chariuts of Fire," "Dead Poets Society," "Three Men and A Baby," "The Secret of My Success," "Who Framed Roger Rabbit," "Field o Dreams" and "Almost Famous."

As for current and coming films' titles, the standouts are "Collateral Damage," "Monsters, Inc.," "Two Can Play That Game," "Hearts in Atlantis," "Legally Blonde,' "Riding in Cars with Boys," "Killing Me Softly," "The Others" and "The Man Who Wasn't There."

What about local movies? They used to have long and ponderous titles like "Ikaw ang Lahat sa Akin" and "Pitong Kalbaryo ng Isang Ina," but they too have caught up with the no-nonsense times.

Last year, the more striking Filipino movie titles were "Biyaheng Langit," "Ang Dalubhasa," "Bayaning Third World," "Mana-Mana, Tiba-Tiba," "Azucena," "Bukas Na Lang Kita Mamahalin," "Tanging Yaman" and "Sugatang Puso."

There were still old-fashioned titles like "Itakwil Man Ako ng Langit," "Yakapin Mo ang Umaga," "Tunay na Mahal" and "Bukas May Ligaya," but they were in the decided minority. We do learn our lessons, however belatedly.

Local films are also going in for one-word titles – "Mapagbigay," "Palaban," "Tugatog," "Tumbador," "Sariwa," "Waray," "Garapal," "Ambisyosz," "Testigo," "Lagarista," "Katayaw" (etc.!). Generally, however, these are limited to action or sexy productions.

As for titles with people's names, our local examples are mainly action movies – "Fidel Jimenez – Magkasubukan Tayo," "Antonio Cuervo — Police: Walang Pinipili ang Batas," "Col. Elmer Jamias – Barako ng Maynila" — that sort of true-to-life macho thing.

'BLACK MANTRA' BAR TOUR

Wolfgang continues their bar tour to promote their latest album, "Black Mantra." Catch the band's last two shows on Oct. 30 at Padi's Point Manila and Nov. 7 at 8th Day Bar in Ortigas. The group is composed of Basti Artadi, Manuel Legarda, Mon Legaspi and Wolf Gemora. The tour is presented by Eventscape Manila, with San Miguel Beer Pale Pielsen, Forward Magazine, MyGlobe, Lucky Strike, 99.5 dwRT and Jack n' Jill Chippy.

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND•EX

BUBBLE BOY - GP 11:15, 1:20, 3:25, 5:30, 7:35, 9:40	TRAINING DAY - R 18 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00	LEGALLY BLONDE - P 13 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10
THE ONE - P 13 11:45, 1:50, 3:55, 6:00, 8:05, 10:10	AMERICAN PIE 2 - R 18 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50	LEGALLY BLONDE - P 13 11:20, 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:10

Matinee, P80, Mon.-Fri., 11:00 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.

SM CINEMA
BE THE FIRST TO WATCH THE SPECIAL SNEAK PREVIEW OF

LIFE IS AN ADVENTURE. DON'T BLOW IT.
BUBBLE BOY

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Tickets available on
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October 30 (Tue)
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SOUTHMALL•FAIRVIEW•CENTERPOINT

SM CINEMA
BE THE FIRST TO WATCH THE SPECIAL SNEAK PREVIEW OF

JET LI
THE ONE
REVOLUTION STUDIOS

MTRCB RATING: PG13
Tickets available on
October 29 (Mon)
October 30 (Tue)
SM MANILA•NORTH EDSA•MEGAMALL•SUCAT•BACOOR
SOUTHMALL•FAIRVIEW•CENTERPOINT•TUTUBAN•GUADALUPE

ARTFILM - GLORIETTA 4
AYALA CINEMAS
NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING ▶ R Restricted
Strictly for ADULTS.
No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.

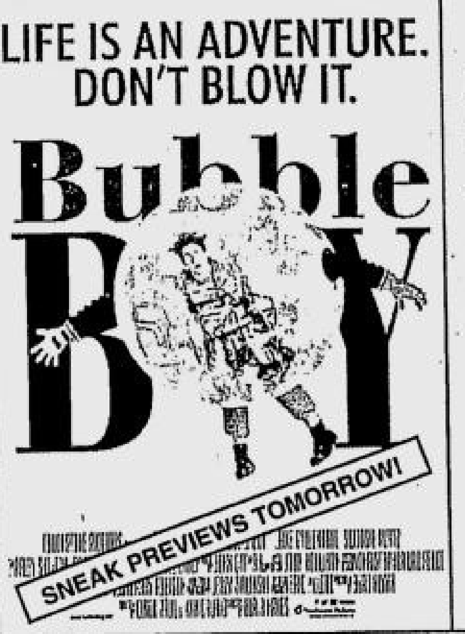
"KATE HUDSON SHINES!"
"TWO THUMBS UP!"
about Adam

PHILIPPINE PREMIERE
stuart TOWNSEND · frances O'CONNOR · charlotte BRADLEY · & kate HUDSON
He's the most outrageous secret three sisters ever kept... from each other.
about Adam
A Romantic Comedy About A Tale Of Familial Sexual Intrigue

Lucy Owens has terrible luck in love. While doing her routine of singing torch songs, waiting tables, and complaining about her love life, she meets Adam. The two exchange just one look and Lucy is ready to marry him. However, Adam proves to be unpredictable as he sets out to date Lucy's sisters, Alice and Laura. A waitress falls for a handsome customer who seduces her, her two sisters, her brother, and her brother's girlfriend.

Featured at the Sundance Film Festival.

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult


LIFE IS AN ADVENTURE. DON'T BLOW IT.
Bubble BOY
SNEAK PREVIEWS TOMORROW!

IMAGINE LIVING YOUR LIFE INSIDE A PLASTIC BUBBLE...
Meet Jimmy Livingston (Jake Gyllenhaal), a 17-year-old kid who has all the normal experiences of a boy growing up, except he lives in a plastic bubble.

Then he falls in love, but the girl he wants will marry another---if he does not stop the wedding in time. So, Jimmy builds a bubble suit.

The movie is an outrageously funny road trip across the U.S., where Jimmy meets bikers, rock stars, freaks and a cult, racing against time and his parents, who are determined to bring him back to the safety of his "bubble room."

A hilarious coming-of-age comedy for anyone who has ever been in love.
LOOK OUT, WORLD, HERE COMES BUBBLE BOY!

OPENS IN CINEMAS ON NOV. 14

MTRCB RATING ▶ R Restricted
Strictly for ADULTS
No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.

GHOSTS OF MARS

'Ghosts of Mars,' special effects-packed action-suspense thriller from John Carpenter

Mars, 2176 AD. Long inhabited by human settlers, the Red Planet has become the dangerous destiny of an over-populated Earth. 640,000 people now live and work at far-flung outposts all over Mars, mining the planet for its abundant natural resources.

But one of those mining operations has uncovered a deadly mother lode: a long-dormant Martian civilization whose terrifying warriors, now unleashed and unstoppable, are systematically taking over the bodies of human intruders, bent on ridding the planet of the invaders from Earth.

Master of Terror John Carpenter ("Escape from L.A.," "Halloween," "Vampires") presents a new, special effects-packed action-adventure sci-fi thriller starring the sexy Natasha Henstridge ("Species") as Lt. Melanie Ballard of the Mars Police Force. "Ghosts of Mars" is a Columbia Pictures release

OPENS OCTOBER 31

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

JET LI
THE ONE
REVOLUTION STUDIOS
SONY.COM/THEONE

All-new 'MATRIX'-style sci-fi actioner
Jet Li vs. Jet Li in 'THE ONE'

What if you discovered the most dangerous man in the universe was you?

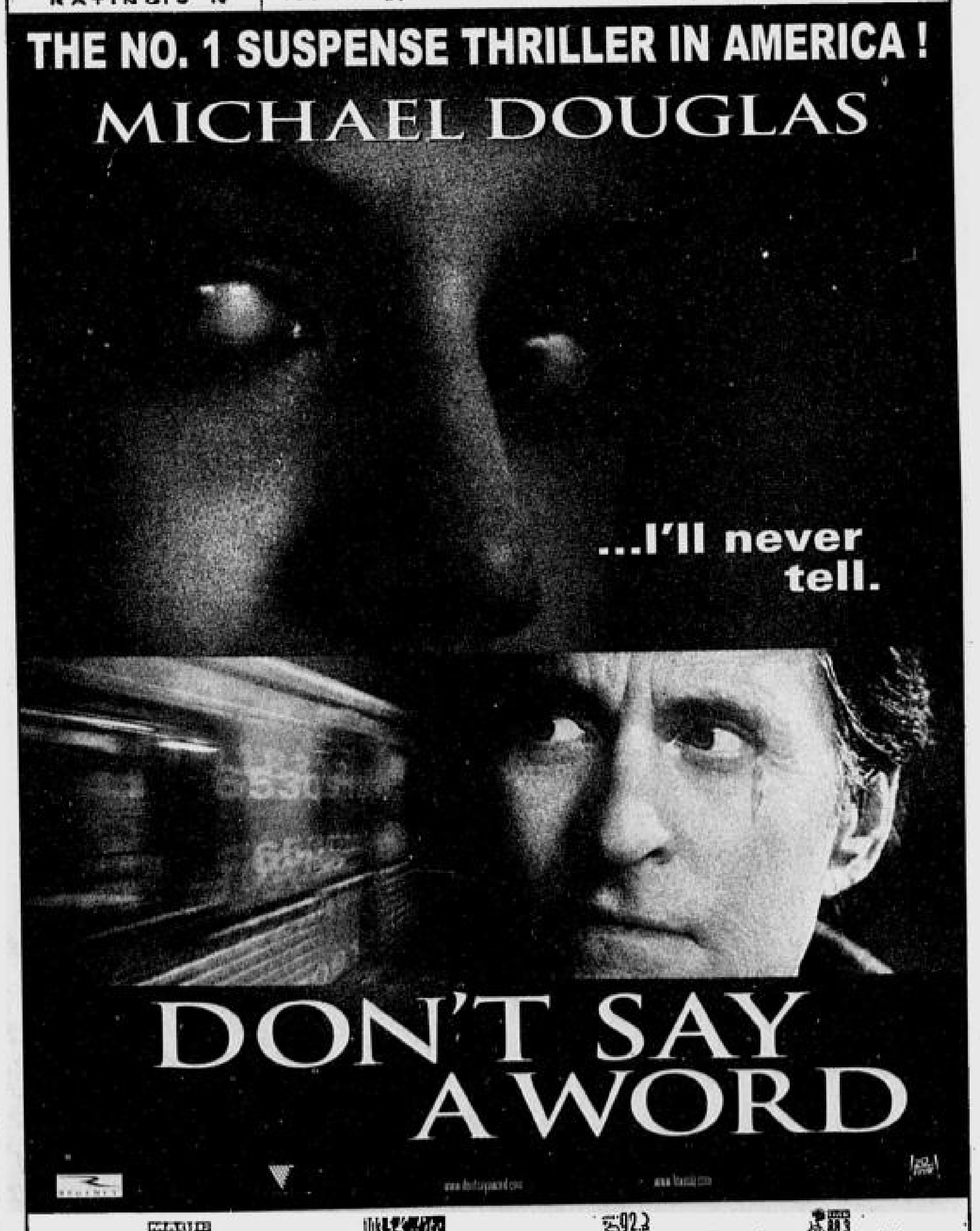
Jet Li the hero and Jet Li the villain square off in Columbia Pictures' new stunt & special efx-packed sci-fi action thriller, "The One."

The hero is Gabe, a sheriff deputy. He must thwart his predator Yulaw, an evil agent in a parallel universe who gains super power and strength with every alternate self he destroys. Gabe is his ultimate prey.

"The One" features spectacular fight scenes choreographed by the best Hong Kong martial artists, and astounding special effects in the tradition of "The Matrix" and "Terminator 2." Action fans will applaud the non-stop thrill ride of Jet Li's latest mega-blockbuster.

Mauna na! Sneak Preview TODAY!
- Regular Run Begins Nov. 7 ! -

MTRCB RATING PG-13!
Parents Strongly Cautioned in bringing children of tender age due to some violent scenes.


THE NO. 1 SUSPENSE THRILLER IN AMERICA !
MICHAEL DOUGLAS
...I'll never tell.
DON'T SAY A WORD

DISTRIBUTED BY 20TH CENTURY FOX THRU WARNER BROS.
OPENS OCT. 31 AT THEATERS EVERYWHERE

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Why Dolphy is king

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

I TAPED a cameo appearance on "Home Along da Riles" with *Tito* Dolphy.

He had a dream sequence that he was the host of "Game K N B?" They shot my scene with him first but I stayed on for his three remaining game sequences. They put in some choreography while he said the show's tag line.

What really fascinated me was how truly graceful a dancer Tito Dolphy is! He grooves with the beat, and, when you observe how his legs move, it comes across as so light and natural, almost as if he were floating. It's a true God-given talent.

He had to wait for me to finish my taping since "Home Along" also used our set, crew, and director and we didn't roll tape until almost 3 a.m. But that's why Tito Dolphy is the King of Comedy.

His ad libs and his memory were still so sharp, even when we were near the end of the taping at 5 a.m.

He showed no ego whatsoever since part of the storyline was that he found one of my Matrix-like trench coats, and he wore it

WHY/ A28

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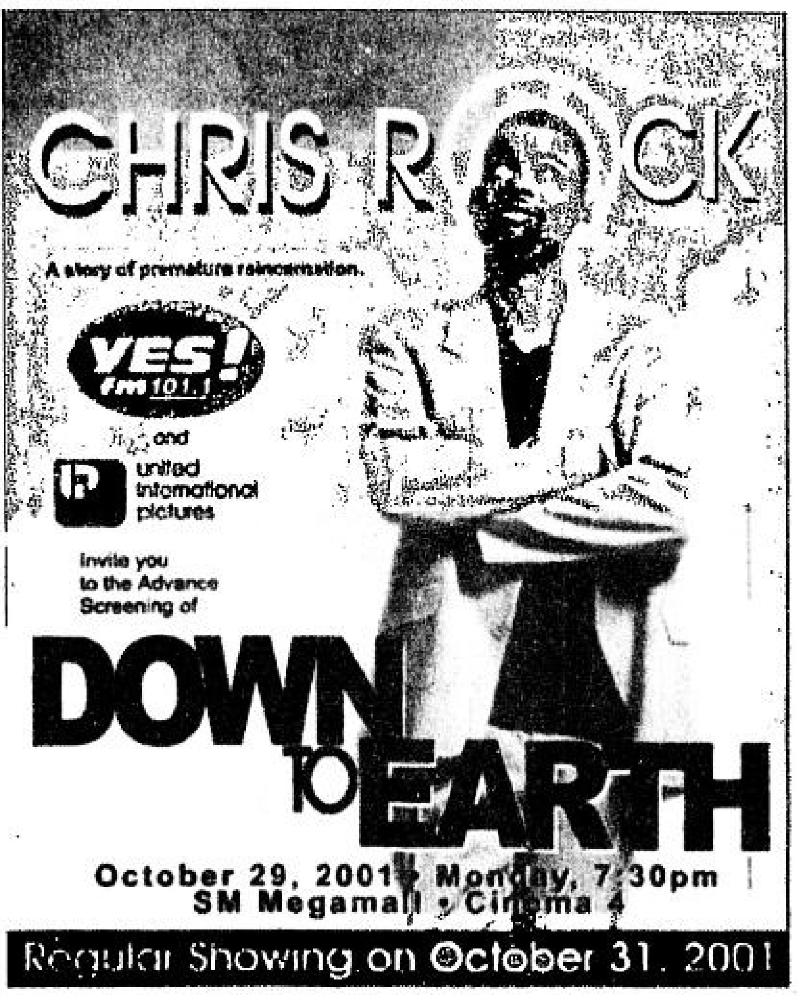

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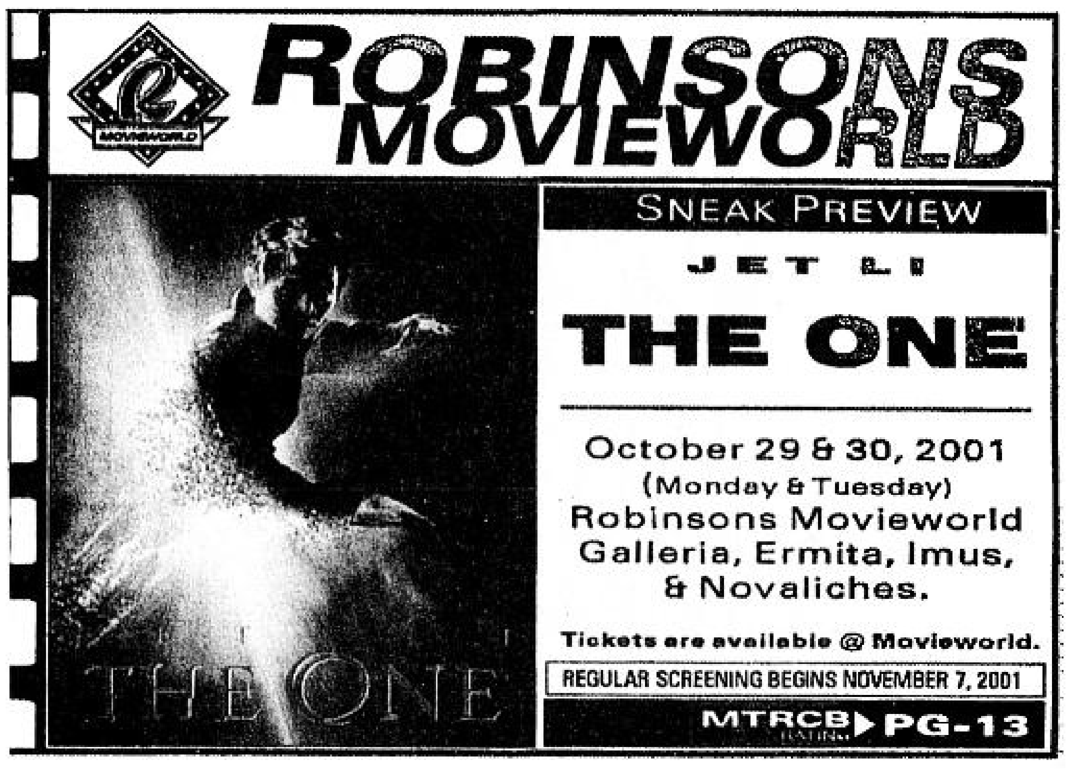

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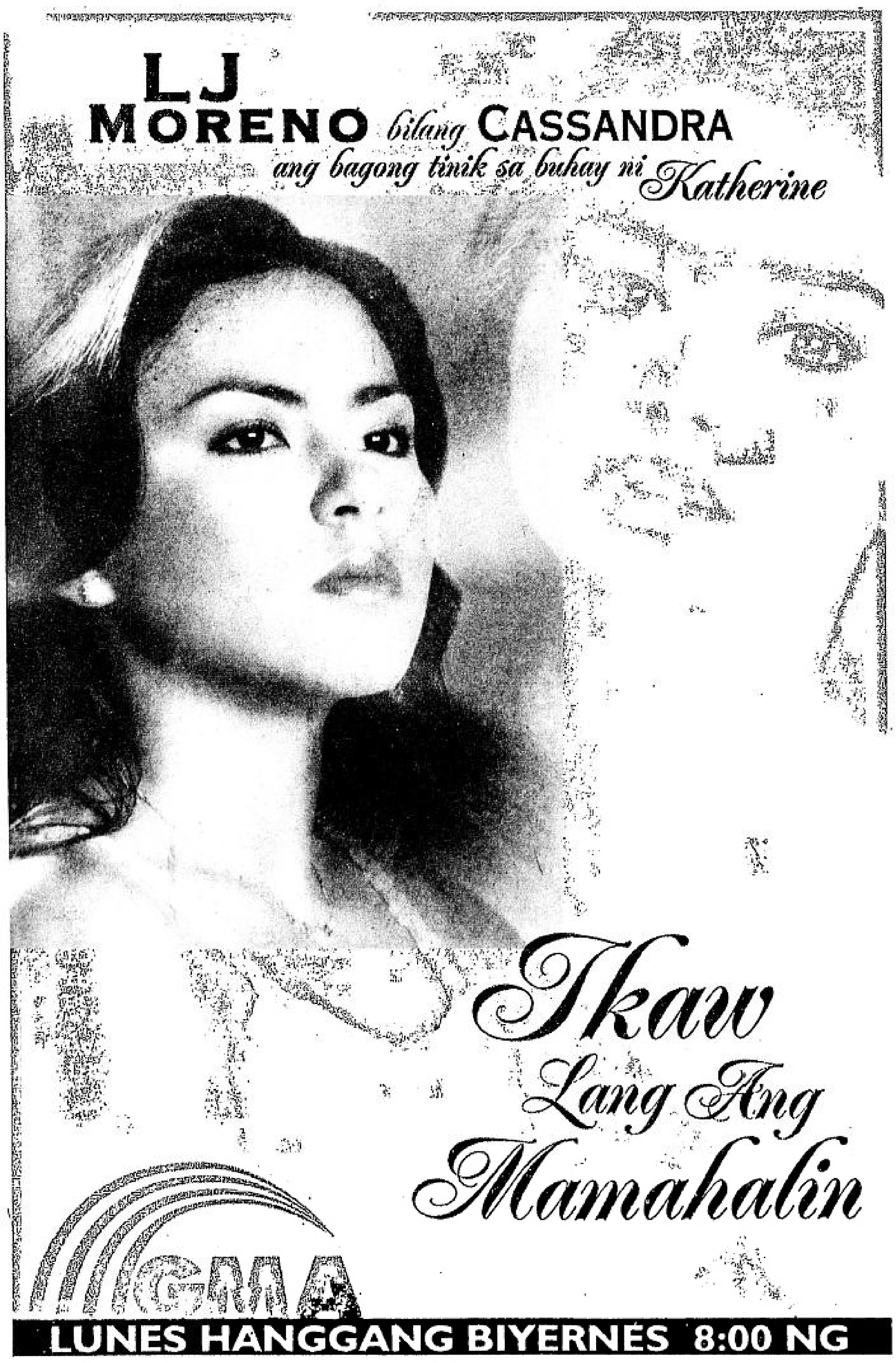

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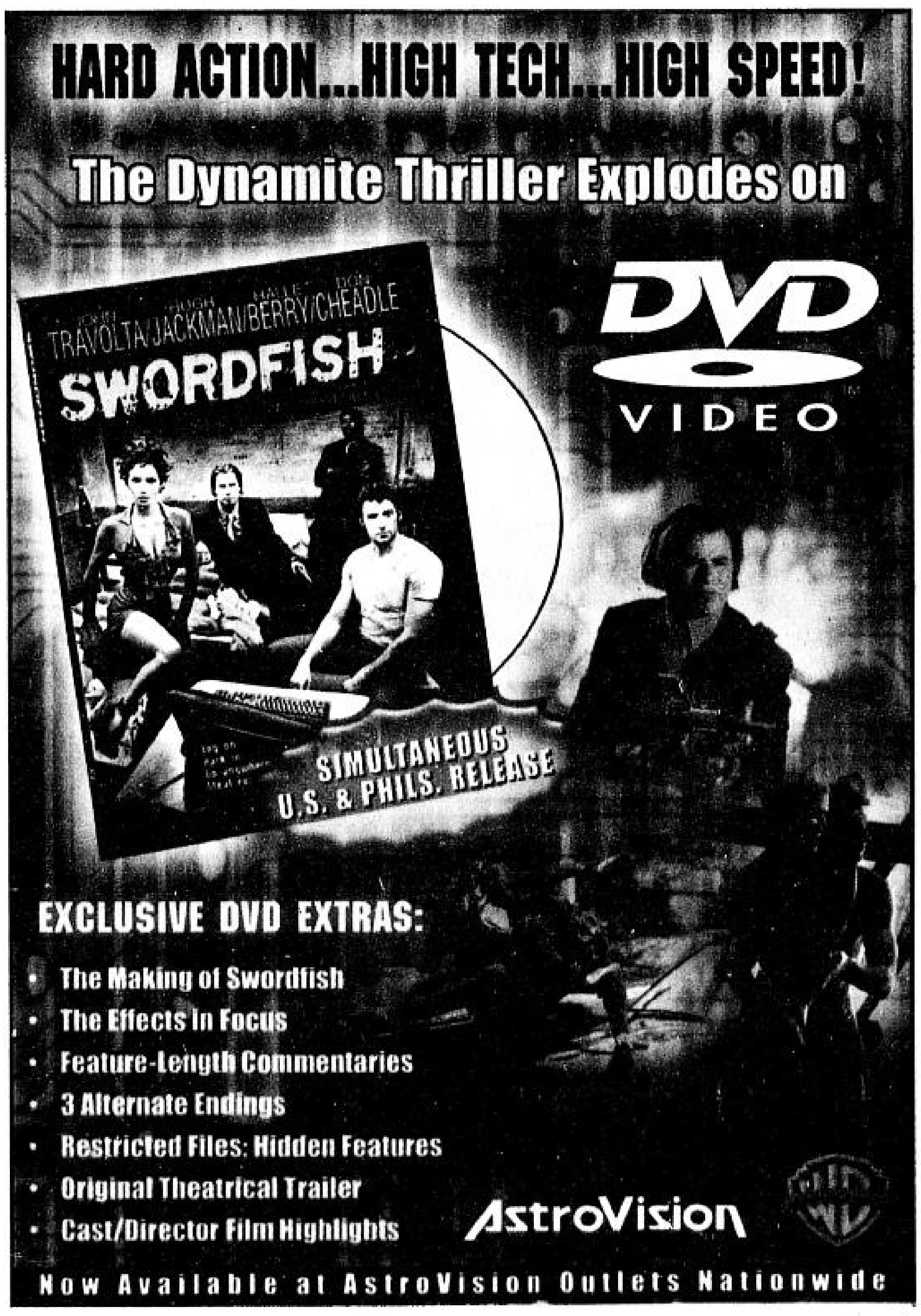

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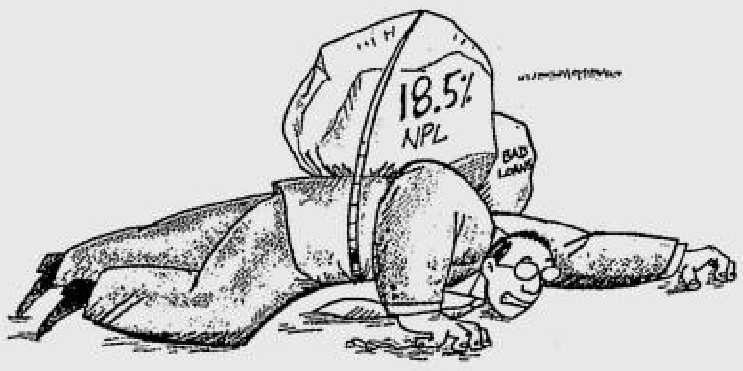
Commercial banks' bad loans rising

By Elena R. Torrijos



THE COMMERCIAL banking sector's non-performing loan ratio jumped to 18.5 percent of total loan portfolio as of the third week of this month from about 17 percent in end-June, published statements of condition of the country's 43 commercial banks showed.

The sector's total bad loans during the period reached P283.32 billion out of a loan portfolio of P1.531 trillion. As of the second quarter, the sector's NPLs amounted to P264.33 billion out of a total loan portfolio of P1.551 trillion.

Of the 43 commercial banks, 23 posted higher bad loans ratio during the period compared with the previous quarter's levels.

The published statement of condition of Malaysian-owned TA Bank of the Philippines showed that 95 percent of the bank's loan portfolio turned sour as of the third week of September. This brought TA Bank to the top of the list of banks with the highest NPL ratio. Its bad loans ratio in the second quarter was placed at only 28 percent of total loans.

TA Bank's soured loans nearly doubled to P482.87 million during the period from P271.5 million in the previous quarter while its loan portfolio was nearly halved to about P508.28 million from P969.68 million.

The erstwhile No. 1 in the list, United Overseas Bank, came in second place as of the third week of the month with an NPL ratio of 66.77 percent, higher than the previous quarter's 62.7 percent. The total amount of UOB's bad loans rose by P600 million during the third quarter to P5.48 billion although its total loan portfolio grew to P8.2 billion from P7.78 billion.

Traders Royal Bank for the first time reported its NPL ratio, which, as of the third quarter, reached 65.55 percent, the third highest, or P3.3 billion out of P5.043 billion of loans.

In the fourth slot, Philippine National Bank saw its total NPL ratio rose to 53 percent from 44 percent in the second quarter. Its bad loans increased by P6.5 billion to P51.16 billion.

Bank of Commerce's bad loans ratio deteriorated to 32.81 percent from 30.93 percent while Prudential Bank's share of NPLs also went up a bit to 26.55 percent from 24.93 percent.

BAD LOANS/ B5

INDICATORS

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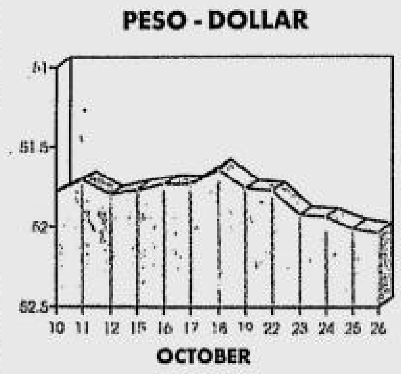

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As of 5 p.m., Oct. 26, 2001

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GRAPHS BY SAMMY REINOSO

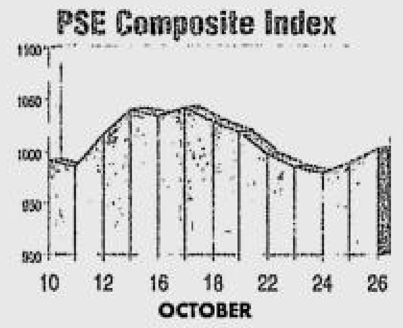
STOCK MARKET

Shares close higher

SHARES ended higher Friday on a technical recovery following Wall Steet's overnight gains, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index closed above its 1000-point psychological resistance with a 12.55-point, or 1.3-percent, gain to 1002.52.

SHARES/ B6



(See stock market report on Page B6)

Gov't mulls higher tax on dollar deposits

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE INTER-AGENCY Development Budget Coordination Council will discuss on Wednesday a Department of Finance proposal to raise the tax slapped on interest earnings of dollar deposits to 10 percent from the current 7.5 percent.

Although the DOF-proposed rate is lower than the 20 percent recommended by the International Monetary Fund, local banks and depositors are expected to oppose the move.

The Fund wanted the government to impose a uniform interest rate on the earnings of both dollar and peso deposits. Dollar placements in banks stand at about $12 billion.

The DOF proposal aims to bring closer the tax rate on interest earnings of foreign currency deposit units or FCDUs to the 20-percent tax on the earnings of peso deposits. This forms part of the medium-term policy that the economic team plans to adopt.

Sources said the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has given its go-ahead to the proposal as it found the DOF-proposed rate more acceptable than the earlier plan to double the rate to 15 percent.

A Finance official said Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho had reservations on the original plan considering its impact on the banks, the depositors and the entire financial system. BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura shared Camacho's position, saying that the doubling of the tax rate might lead to capital flight.

The DOF, before Camacho was appointed finance secretary in June, had pushed for the doubling of the tax on FCDU deposits to raise more than P4 billion in additional revenue.

Buenaventura pointed out that the $12 billion in FCDU deposits served as secondary reserves for the country, which helped the country weather the 1997 Asian crisis.

A DOF official explained that the incentives given to FCDU deposits were unnecessary, particularly at a time when the government was in dire need for additional revenues.

However, another DOF official defended the lower tax rate on FCDU deposits, saying this could help the country cope with its external accounts problem.

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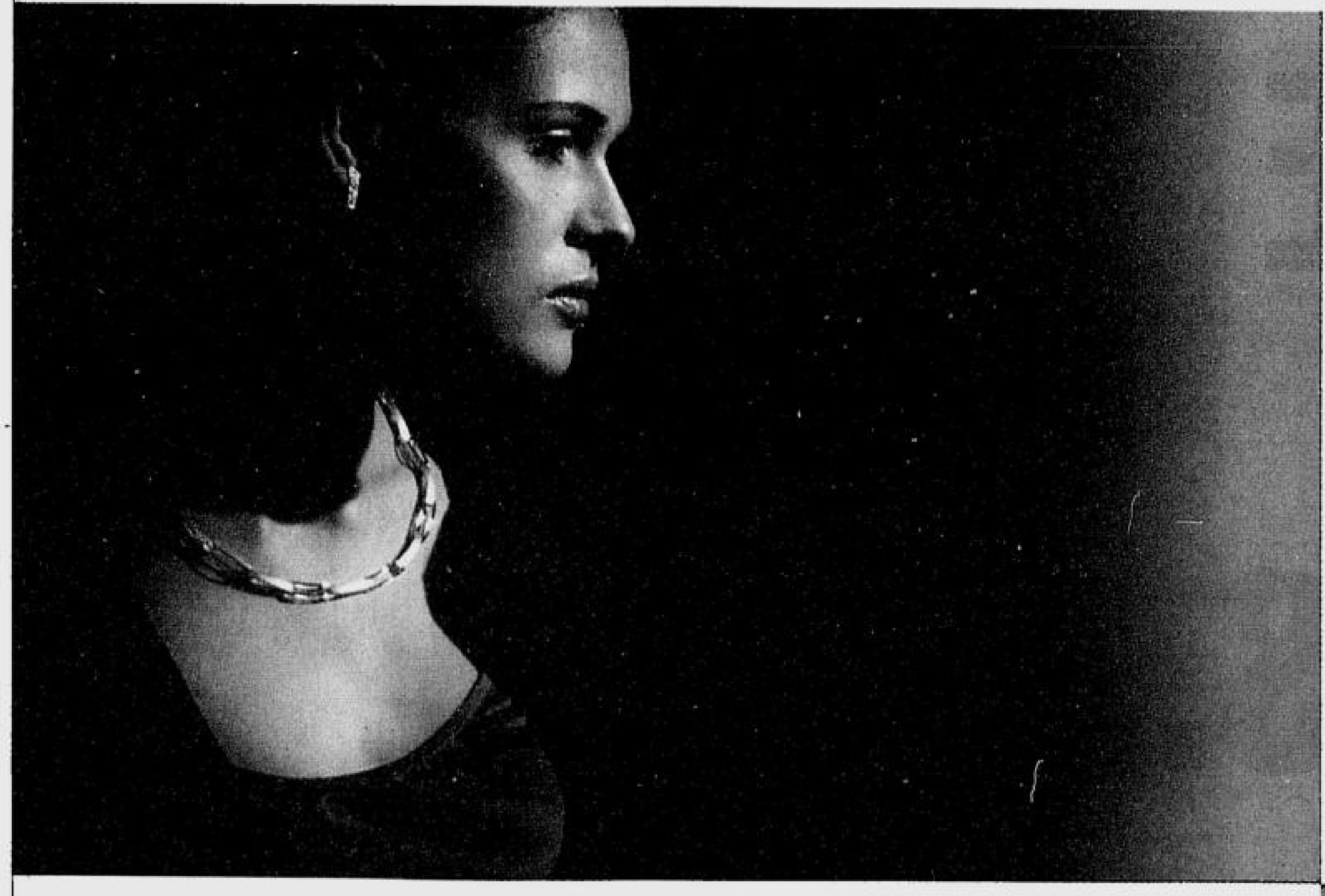

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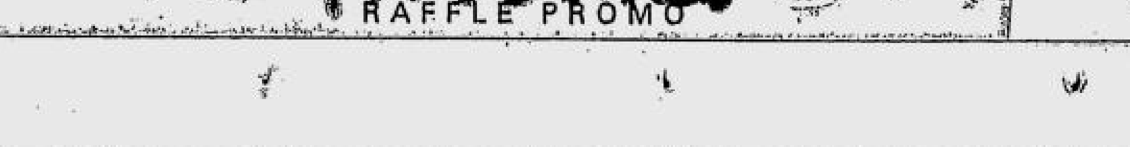

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SECONDARY MARKET

Bank exchange planned for fixed income securities

BAGUIO CITY—The Bankers Association of the Philippines (BAP) is planning to put up a universal bank exchange that will centralize all secondary market transactions for fixed income securities.

The plan came as the government confronts a tough market in its bid to sell new short-term treasury bills and special security bonds this Christmas season.

Ruth Bandera, assistant vice president of the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) Capital, said the BAP project can get enough commitments for government securities, after bankers and investors questioned on Monday the road show opening here for the re-issued four-year Retail Treasury Bonds (RTB).

Many local bankers expressed concern about the "fragile nature" of government-backed securities at the RTB launch, as Malacañang faces the prospect of a larger deficit amid a global recession that may follow the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States.

"Why (is the government) floating another RTB, after it had issued the first RTB? This suggests that the first opening was not as successful, because the government still needs more money. Is this a sign of a healthy economy?" a banker asked top RTB banking advocates here in a forum.

Maurice Cruz, assistant vice president of the First Metro Investment Corp. (FMIC), said the first RTB issuance on May 4 yielded P15.375 billion, making the short-term treasury bills "the last safe haven left for local investors."

The RTB sells for as low as P5,000 and has a 14.25-percent fixed coupon rate.

From May 4 to Oct. 19, Cruz pointed out that the Philippine Stock Exchange Index fell by 29 percent, just as the Dow Jones fell by 16 percent, and the Nasdaq by 23 percent.

Cruz said the intermediate months saw the fall of the peso from P50.38 against the US dollar to P51.76 in October, or by 2.8 percent. Even the 91-day treasury bills posted a decline from 10.10 percent to 9.8 percent.

However, investors could feel less threatened once a bank exchange is in place, Bandera pointed out.

A banker here told the RTB advocates during the forum that most investors were concerned about short-term liquidity and required guarantees that they could dispose of the bonds or the treasury bills after only a year.

He noted that banks that offer such securities usually control the instruments' disposition "against the clients' wishes."

"The infrastructure is still being laid out, but a secondary market for fixed income securities addresses this problem. Once in place, an investor can go and sell securities with any bank he wishes to deal with," Bandera told the INQUIRER.

Patterned after the American instrument, the BAP project will engage a sophisticated universal trading network for government securities, long-term investment papers and special bonds.

Nanette Diaz, director of the Bureau of Treasury, said the RTB was being reissued because of a high demand.

She said as much as P5.3 billion had already been awarded to individual RTB investors on Oct. 19. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Europe urged to lift quota on RP garments, textile

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

APPAREL exports to Europe are projected to grow by nearly 50 percent over the next three years if the Macapagal administration succeeds in haggling for the lifting of quota restrictions on Philippine garments and textile, the country's second biggest export earner.

Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II said the Tariff Commission has given the go-ahead for the Garment and Textile Export Board and various industry associations to negotiate with the European Union for wider access to the regions. The industry associations involved are the Garments Business Association of the Philippines, the Confederation of Garments Exporters of the Philippines and the Textile Manufacturers Association of the Philippines.

Roxas said the EU had already stated that it was willing to lift its quotas on Philippine-made textile and garments if the Philippine government promises to bind or maintain its tariffs on 150 apparel and textile items at current levels.

Roxas said this move would help the industry weather through the economic slowdown in the world's biggest markets for apparel and fabrics—US and Europe. The market slump in these markets has resulted in a 4.9-percent drop in Philippine garment and textile exports to $2.202 billion from January to Sept. 14 this year from $2.3 billion in the same period last year.

Sales in Europe fell sharply by 17.4 percent to $222.4 million from January to Sept. 14 this year from $269.206 million in the same period last year. Unrestricted access to Europe could boost exports by $158 million yearly from 2002 to 2004 and generate 23,000 new jobs.

The Garments and Textile Export Board was not so keen on the offer made by the European Union to increase the country's garments exports quota to Europe by nearly $600 million yearly.

The EU had earlier offered to raise the Philippines' quota by $600 yearly in exchange for the lowering of the bound tariffs on six product categories representing 150 items largely in bed linen, fabrics, brassieres and carpets.

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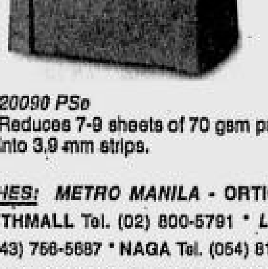

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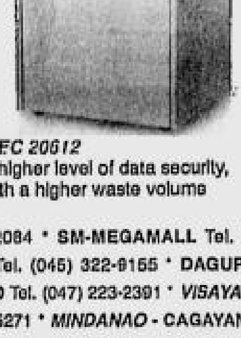

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Insurance liberalization: An update

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

MAY I invite those who are against trade liberalization to visit with me a workshop that has been going on for the past nine years.

Back in the early sixties, there were about 200 non-life companies and 20 life companies. Everybody then thought that the market was already overcrowded. At the request of the insurance industry, President Diosdado Macapagal issued an executive order banning the licensing of new insurance companies and the entry of foreign insurance companies.

The ban stood until 1992 when, in line with the Philippine commitment under the Asean Free Trade Agreement, the insurance industry was opened once again to the entry of new foreign companies. The foreigners could choose from any of three doors. He could open a full-fledged branch, a wholly owned subsidiary, or buy into an existing local company. No matter what door he chose, the investment would cost him P300 million.

But it was not until 1996 when the first foreign life insurance company accepted the invitation. Which goes to show that, when the door is opened, the foreigners do not just come rushing in. Since 1996, the Insurance Commission has licensed 13 foreign companies under the liberalization program, swelling the total number of companies in the life insurance industry to 41.

These new companies are some of the largest in the world. How are they new doing? Let the figures speak for themselves. As of end of last year, total premium volume was only 3.7 percent of industry volume. It will continue to be a slow, tough grind to carve out a good piece of the local life insurance market.

Today, three of the new foreign companies have sold out the little business they were able to develop. One foreign company simply stopped selling new life policies, although it continues to service the life policies they have been able to sell. Which goes to show that some of these foreigners just cannot stand the heat of local competition.

How are the local companies, including the foreign companies that have been here for ages? From 1998 to 2000, the Top 6 old players (Philam, Insular, Sun, Manulife, and Cocolife) increased their total premium volume by 28.3 percent, a healthy 9.4 percent yearly average. In first year premiums, the increase was 36.9 percent, an even more robust 12.3 percent yearly average.

How about the small companies? Not too bad. For the same three-year period, the total premium volume of the six smallest companies went up by a modest 13.2 percent. They are losing new business. Their first year premiums contracted by 16.4 percent.

What is happening? To the big six, the entry of the foreigners was a wake-up call. The big six are a scrappy bunch. Have you noticed all the full-page ads from the big six? As an insurance broker, I get visits from nice-looking lady sales assistants from the big six, which, I must confess, livens up this 75-year-old insurance veteran. On the other hand, the small companies are content to stay in their little niches of the market.

The life insurance business has never been so vibrant. Have you noticed the sales gimmicks around the city?

What does these all mean to the consumer? There is now a much wider variety of products to choose from at competitive prices. But wait, don't go rushing to buy every new product presented to you. Get a good broker to help you choose.

Of course, it is too early to tell before a final judgment can be made on liberalization, especially on a long-term business like life insurance. But, so far, on the whole, liberalization of the life insurance industry has been good for the consumer. (*More next week*)

NGO defends air deal between RP, Singapore

By Abigail L. Ho

NON-GOVERNMENT organization Freedom to Fly Coalition defended the government's decision to sign an amendatory air rights agreement with Singapore as another group claimed that some provisions of the deal were "disadvantageous" to the Philippines.

Save Our Skies Movement (SOS), an organization at the opposite end of the issue, claimed that the revised air agreement entered into by the Philippines and Singapore was signed hastily and was not given much thought by the government.

The group claimed that Singapore air carriers had not been properly utilizing their entitlements, resulting in excess seat capacity.

A study conducted by Center for Research and Communication economist Ma. Cherry Lyn Rodolfo, however, showed that "Singapore has been fully utilizing its entitlements for the past years."

Before the amendatory air agreement was signed in August, Singapore had a seat entitlement of 6,545 seats per week. This was later increased to 8,700 seats per week.

According to Rodolfo's study, Singapore flag carrier Singapore Airlines (SIA) "has been mounting 5,589 total weekly seats." Its other flag carrier, Silk Air, "has even entered into a commercial agreement with Philippine Airlines (PAL) for 50 seats in order to mount additional capacity."

The study further stated that there were a total of 371,118 passengers from Singapore to the Philippines last year. SIA carried 60.1 percent of these passengers, Silk Air brought in 9.5 percent, while PAL captured 30.4 percent of the total inbound passengers.

Another study by Freedom to Fly cited that the government was "definitely right in signing the new agreement" because the additional capacity could increase the number of inbound passengers.

The combined capacity entitlement for the two countries, prior to the agreement, was set at 475,540 passengers a year. To achieve the optimum load factor of at least 70 percent, the total should be increased to at least 530,000 passengers per year.

Rodolfo's study further stated that additional access as a result of the additional capacity entitlement to Singapore would "expand the service that can be provided to overseas Filipinos in Singapore and other parts of the world."

Of around 7.3 million Filipinos overseas, 127,000 are based in Singapore, the study said.

SOS also questioned the provision on intermediate and beyond points provisions in the air service agreement. For Singapore flag carriers, intermediate points from Singapore to its destinations in the Philippines (Manila, Cebu and Davao) are Osaka in Japan, Seoul in Korea and Bandar Seri Begawan in Brunei.

SOS president Robert Lim Joseph said the Korea and Japan routes were "very lucrative" as most tourists who visit the Philippines come from these two countries.

As for Philippine flag carriers, the intermediate points from Manila, Cebu or Davao to Singapore are Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia, Bangkok in Thailand, Jakarta in Indonesia and Bandar Seri Begawan.

The Freedom to Fly study stated that, in the amendatory agreement, there was no change in the beyond points. The points included were merely carried over from the old agreement.

"Japan and Korea were not included as beyond points because they are east of the Philippines whereas Singapore is west of the Philippines. In other words, they are not beyond points. To include them would mean backtracking," the study said.

It further said that "Filipino airlines can fly passengers from Singapore to Japan and Korea via the Philippines. In fact, PAL does it now. Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta and Bangkok are definitely more valuable as intermediate and beyond points."

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Nestlé's new CBAs

NESTLÉ Philippines (NPI) recently concluded five of its nine Collective Bargaining Agreements (CBAs) which it says offer the best package in the food industry today.

Nestlé management announced this as two more unions of the food company's ice cream division concluded an early CBA nearly four months before their respective CBA's expire on Jan. 31, 2002. A third union representing the daily paid employees of the ice cream division has also agreed to an early signing of a Memorandum of Agreement leading to a CBA.

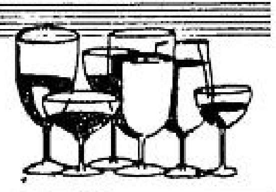
NPI chair and CEO Juan B. Santos welcomed this development, describing it as a responsible act on the part of the bargaining units involved. "We are happy for the concerned workers and their families for being able to secure their financial benefits for the next three years, considering the difficult and uncertain times that we face today."

Earlier, the food company also forged a new CBA with its South Sales Union, followed by its Cagayan de Oro Factory Union.

Donuts for dead bats

COCKTALES

By Victor C. Agustin



ONE startling but belated discovery made by the creditor banks of the rapidly discharging Ramcar-Oriental empire was that the battery group had been lending working capital to its fast-food group—Mr. Donut, Kentucky and Fazoli.

What is worse, Ramcar, itself deep in hock, had not been charging cost of money for these intra-company borrowings.

"The battery group was essentially made a milking cow for the (other) business ventures of Mr. (Manuel) Agustines," said a confidential bank report analyzing why Ramcar is now in such a deep mess.

The shell game also extended within the food group itself. Mr. Donut was subsidizing the construction of new Kentucky Fried Chicken stores to comply with the KFC franchise to open a given number of branches every year.

Unlike other franchises, the KFC franchise does not allow Agustines to sub-franchise nor sell or assign KFC to others to help spread the cost of expansion.

Meanwhile, the oodles of money that was supposed to come from the Metrorail investment has not materialized—despite the controversial government guarantee and an assured 15-percent return on investment—because, when payment time comes, creditors of the Edsa light rail project take precedence over investors like Ramcar.

But what finally short-circuited Ramcar was when it resorted to short-term borrowings just to meet interest payments on its multibillion-peso loans, a formula for disaster in a slowing economy.

The 19 creditor banks claimed that they had been caught unaware of the Ramcar's deteriorating condition since the Ramcar Group's audited financial statements showed that combined liabilities never exceeded P4 billion. By Ramcar's own reckoning, the group's consolidated debts had already ballooned by early last month to P7.9 billion, a substantial bulk of which is held by unsecured short-term lenders.

Of the 40 companies under the Ramcar Group, the biggest five—Ramcar, Oriental and Motorlite, Philippine Recyclers, Ramcar Plastics, and Oriental Yuasa—were being audited by the SGV.

Given its strategic size and the Citibank background of Agustines, the Ramcar Group ironically has not maintained consolidated financial statements that would have alerted creditors to any substantial inter-company transaction within the 40 companies.

To compound the "auditorial" maze, each company observes different financial years, with the five biggies alone having four different reportorial timetables.

Feeling the pain

THE WEAKENING consumer demand and the flight to cheaper substitutes have already cost the life of the Au Bon Pain bakery chain.

Au Bon Pain quietly shut down its last remaining stores last month. Its landmark Edsa Plaza store has actually been boarded up "for renovation" for sometime now.

And Ayala's Burger King, that has been segregated from Purefoods before the latter was sold to San Miguel Corp., is also on the block.

Asking price? P1 million, plus assumption of more than P1.2 billion in debts, according to the grapevine.

Heard through the grapevine

BECAUSE of the loss of its name partners to the government, Carpio Villaraza and Cruz law office will soon be renamed Villaraza and Angangco, in recognition of the promotion of ex-IBP president Raul "Reggie" Angangco to shingle status.

Like his partners, Angangco is also a product of UP Law School, having also graduated with honors from the Diliman campus. *(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)*

GOINGS-ON

Public administration forum

THE GOVERNANCE Advisory Council, the President's private sector council on governance reform, and the Institute for Solidarity in Asia, chaired by former Finance Secretary Jesus P. Estanislao, recently held a lecture forum dubbed, "Empowering Public Administration" at the SGV conference hall of the Asian Institute of Management. Co-sponsors of the event were the Asia Foundation and Land Bank of the Philippines.

The GAC serves as the advisory body to the President in formulating her governance agenda.

Robert Klitgaard, dean and Ford distinguished professor of international development and security at Rand Graduate School in Sta. Monica, California, was the forum speaker. Klitgaard spoke on the topic, "Preventing the Next Great Wave of Worldwide Corruption."

ERA's home investment services

ELECTRONIC Realty Associates (ERA) Philippines Inc., the local arm of a global leader in real estate sales and services, announced the formal launching of its exclusive and innovative package of value-added realty services by forming its new group—the Home Investment Services (HIS) Group.

The HIS Group will promote and market a full range of home investment services designed to make home building as convenient and stress-free as possible. These services are pre-construction counseling, cost-estimation, architectural and engineering design services, interior design services, construction monitoring, home loan sourcing and furniture, fixtures and appliances canvassing, and purchasing.

Lufthansa Systems & Debis FRA at Naia 3

PHILIPPINE International Air Terminal Co. Inc. (Piatco), operators of Naia 3, has tapped German-based IT companies Lufthansa Systems and Debis FRA to handle its terminal management systems. Lufthansa Systems will be providing the local area network infrastructure, baggage reconciliation system and multiuser system equipment. For its part, Debis FRA will be providing airport operational database, flight information display system, gate allocation system and terminal management system.

All through the International Passenger Terminal 3 building there will be approximately 200 km of fiber optics for data communications infrastructure.

The computers in both check-in counters and gates will allow all airline agents to access their own host systems using the same computer with the ability of MUSE system.

Del Rosario is WEC's new chair

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina—The World Energy Council (WEC) has installed Antonio V. del Rosario as its new chair, the first to hail from Asian developing country.

The turnover ceremony was held on Oct. 25 during the 18th World Energy Congress in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He replaced Jim Adam of the United States, formerly chair and chief executive officer of Black & Veatch.

Del Rosario, concurrent vice chair for WEC-Asia's Executive Assembly, is the first Filipino elected in such high capacity in WEC's history. His term will start next year.

Napocor eyes counter trade deal

By Ronnel W. Domingo

NATIONAL Power Corp. president Jesus Alcordo last Friday said Napocor was set to enter into a counter trading arrangement with the government of the People's Republic of China and Philippine Associated Smelting and Refining Corp. (Pasar).

Alcordo said the arrangement would pave the way for trading among the three parties with no cash involved.

Napocor buys coal from Chinese suppliers, while China buys copper concentrate from Pasar, which for its part, gets its electricity requirement from Napocor.

Alcordo, who is joining President Macapagal-Arroyo in her state visit to China, said the three parties would sign a general agreement after discussing the details during the presidential sortie.

He said the arrangement would not run counter to Napocor's policy of promoting its electronic procurement program as this would involve government agencies.

Also, Alcordo said the arrangement would not affect Napocor's cash flow.

In another development, the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) said that the roadshow for Napocor's $400-million bond issuance was put on hold.

The fund is meant to cover the state firm's financial needs, including its operating expenses.

PSALM was created under the Electric Power Industry Reform Act to take over Napocor's assets and assume its financial obligations as of December 2000.

PSALM president Edgardo del Fonso dismissed rumors that the roadshow was put off because of Napocor's problems with its insurance program.

Napocor has yet to renew its industrial all-risk policy covering $6.5 billion worth of assets, which has expired on Sept. 30.

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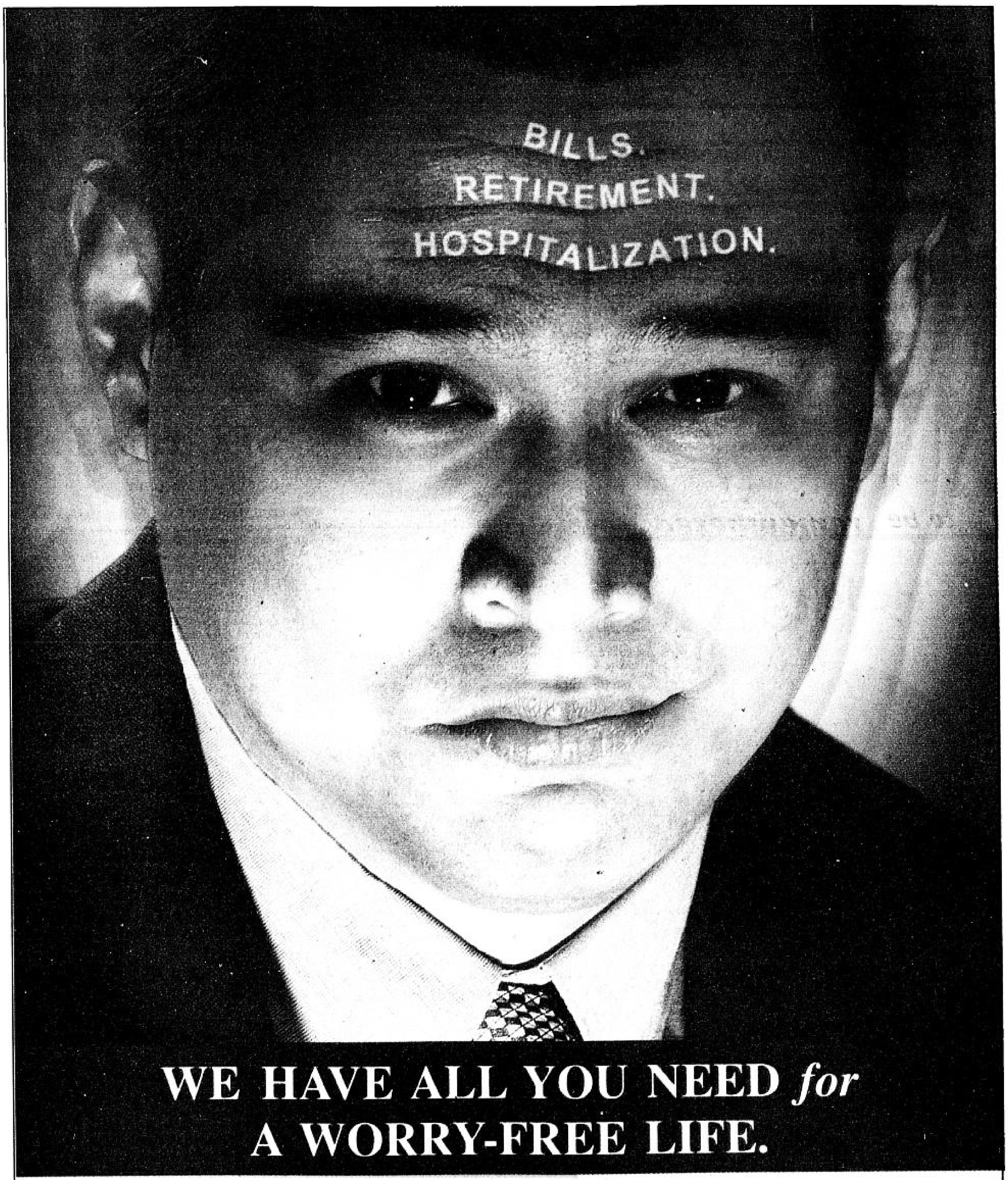
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Gov't to draw up two-year anti-recession action plan

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE MACAPAGAL administration will draw up a two-year action plan in a National Economic Summit next month as a response to the harsh impact of a global economic slowdown.

Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II said officials from Malacañang and Congress would meet with labor and business leaders and non-government organizations to assess the state of the domestic and global economy and come up with appropriate actions to mitigate the impact of a worldwide recession.

The government felt there was a pressing need for an economic summit following heightened uncertainty from the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States and mounting calls for concerted action to arrest a global recession.

The summit is expected to identify which areas are the most vulnerable to the heightened uncertainty, as well as areas identified in the President's State of the Nation Address and the Medium-Term Philippine Development Program that have been slow in implementation.

Roxas said the summit would push for measures that were "doable" up to 2003 as well as obtain the commitments by the private sector and civil society for full support.

"We want to ensure that the Philippines would weather this slowdown by fine-tuning our economy to withstand strong competition from other countries," Roxas said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo agreed to oversee the summit, with backing from Senate President Franklin Drilon and House Speaker Jose de Venecia.

The Nov. 26 summit will have 11 working panels divided based on the specific economic areas: macroeconomy; financial and fiscal policies; agriculture; international trade and export industry; tourism, including hotels, airlines and shipping firms; telecommunication and information technology; labor and employment; housing and infrastructure; education, health and other social services; peace and order, and security; and governance.

INSURANCE

Napocor only lacks final list

By Ronnel W. Domingo

ONLY the final list of bidders for the National Power Corp.'s industrial all-risk policy is lacking, as the joint committee tasked to oversee the bidding has ironed out revisions in it, a Napocor official said.

Napocor's insurance policy covers $6.5 billion worth of assets, including generating plants, sub-stations and a nationwide transmission network.

The official, who is familiar with the matter, said last Friday the list of bidders still included six insurance brokers as a previous move to trim the list did not push through.

The list includes Aon Energy, Alexander Forbes, Andrew Higgins Pickering, Arthur J. Gallagher, Marsh & McLennan and Heath Lambert.

He said, however, that the Government Service Insurance System asked the committee to include Jardine Lloyds Thompson Insurance Brokers, which arranged the policy that expired on Sept. 30.

Last month, President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the creation of a joint bidding committee with two representatives each from Napocor and GSIS and which the finance secretary would chair.

The bidding held late last month failed as prequalified bidders submitted letters of regret saying adverse market conditions prevented them from coming up with their proposals on time.

Also, the official said the revisions included raising deductibles from $500,000 to $1 million and lowering the bid security from $50,000 to $20,000.

"The bidders want higher deductibles this time considering the worth of Napocor's assets," the official explained.

On the other hand, he said the committee felt that the bond security be reduced to make the policy more attractive to bidders.

He said the schedule of the new bidding was moved yet again to Nov. 22 from Nov. 14.

MICRO ENTERPRISE BANK

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has given Micro Enterprise Bank a license during a ceremony in Malacañang. Shown above is President Macapagal-Arroyo presenting the license to Ambassador Jesus Tambunting, chair and chief executive of Planters Development Bank, with (from left) Monetary Board member Antonino Alindogan Jr.

SEC raps PSE clearing house

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has threatened to penalize the Securities Clearing Corp. of the Philippines, the clearing arm of the Philippine Stock Exchange, if the company fails to submit a credit ring agreement signed by clearing member brokers.

SEC brokers and exchanges department director Jose Aquino said the temporary license to operate granted by the SEC to the SCCP expired end-September but the license was extended until the end of the month.

The SEC would likely extend the temporary license, but the commission that would impose a penalty to make the clearing arm "sit up" and ensure the agreement was executed already, Aquino said.

The credit ring agreement required by the SEC calls for member brokers to cover for possible collateral shortfalls when trading.

The SEC earlier required broker-dealers to execute the agreement on or before July 13 but extended the deadline several times.

Under the proposed credit ring agreement, SCCP/PSE member brokers will contribute pro-rata the amount of "net negative exposures" of failing brokers exceeding P10 million.

Net negative exposures reflect the market risk of brokers as a result of the fluctuation of share prices between time of order and settlement.

The credit ring agreement is part of the mark-to-market collateral deposit designed to ensure there was enough assets to cover the difference between the contract value as against the market value of a failed trade contract on settlement date.

The SEC believed this system of requiring and collecting collateral can also be an effective way of putting a cap on speculative activities and makes brokers more discerning in their trading activities.

CMDC seeks EO on reforms

THE CAPITAL Markets Development Council, a public-private sector group that works to improve local debt and equity markets, has endorsed a proposed executive order assigning to the Securities and Exchange Commission the lead role in promoting corporate governance reforms, SEC chair Lilia Bautista said.

The Asian financial crisis in 1997 highlighted the importance of corporate governance reform practices as the failure of many large companies were attributed to weakness in supervising companies.

The proposed EO calls for the SEC to establish, together with other regulatory agencies, appropriate committees that would formulate corporate governance reform programs in the three broad areas of minority shareholders' rights, internal corporate governance systems and transparency, disclosure and external audits.

In the first area, the government would have to strengthen enforcement of the corporation law on shareholder rights, amend listing rules to promote broader ownership and liquidity of shares, ensure demutualization and reforms in the Philippine Stock Exchange and empower state-owned pensions funds as defenders of minority shareholders' rights.

Under the second area, the proposed EO calls for the formulation and adoption of codes for governance, training and setting requirements of independent directors and monitoring by independent institutions of the quality of corporate governance in the corporate sector.

The third batch of reforms would include strengthening regulation and professional practices for accounting and reporting, requiring increased disclosure of beneficial ownership and other investment factors, undertaking measures to encourage self-regulation by the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants with the guidance of the professional regulatory commission.

The SEC shall have to prepare and submit to the executive secretary quarterly progress reports and develop a coordinated action plan toward the implementation of the reforms. *Elena R. Torrijos*

FEDERAL PHOENIX ASSURANCE COMPANY, INC.

SYNOPSIS OF ANNUAL STATEMENT
As of December 31, 1999

ADMITTED ASSETS		
Treasury Bills		P 19,396,820.13
Stocks		60,755,417.07
Real Estate		422,946.71
Security Fund		22,590.00
Other Investments		7,260,000.00
Cash In Office and In Banks		718,622,509.56
Premiums Receivable		182,890,035.91
Premiums Due From Ceding Companies		33,883,651.99
Premiums Reserve Withheld By Ceding Companies		140,765.77
Reinsurance Recoverable on Losses		530,896,325.82
Accrued Investment Income		795,627.96
EDP Equipment		19,307,571.70
Total Admitted Assets		**P 1,574,394,262.62**
LIABILITIES		
Losses and Claims Payable		P 576,372,427.45
Reserve for Unearned Premium		180,951,055.13
Catastrophe Loss Reserve		4,202,697.63
Premiums Due To Reinsurers		357,602,493.89
Premiums Reserve Withheld for Reinsurers		70,679,001.59
Commission Payable		3,945,488.98
Accrued Expenses		1,828,674.62
Taxes Payable		83,727,473.25
Accounts Payable		9,285,525.20
Unearned Bond Discount		278,582.71
Other Liabilities		2,075,712.01
Total Liabilities		**P 1,290,949,132.46**
STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Capital Stock Paid-Up	P 80,000,000.00	
Special Surplus Funds:		
Fluc. Reserve - Stocks	31,038,424.39	
Fluc. Reserve - Foreign Exchange	18,909,867.66	
Retained Earnings	153,496,838.11	
Stockholders' Equity		**283,445,130.16**
Total Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity		**P 1,574,394,262.62**

(This Synopsis prepared from the 1999 Annual Statement, approved by the Insurance Commissioner is published pursuant to Section 225 of the Insurance Code of 1978, as amended).

BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB

LETTER TO THE STOCKHOLDERS

To All Stockholders:

The Notice for the Annual Stockholders' Meeting of the Corporation on 7 November 2001 states that proxies must be filed with the Corporate Secretary at the 19th Floor of the 1st e-Bank Tower, 8737 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City not later than 5:00 p.m. of 31 October 2001. After said Notice was distributed to the stockholders, Proclamation No. 106 issued by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was published, declaring Wednesday, 31 October 2001, beginning at 12:01 p.m., and Friday, 2 November 2001, as special (non-working) days.

Notwithstanding Proclamation No. 106, we hereby clarify that the deadline for the filing of proxies as stated in the Notice remains unchanged and will not be subject to further extension. Thus, the Corporate Secretary will ensure that proxies can be filed at her office at the 19th Floor of the 1st e-Bank Tower, 8737 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City up to and until 5:00 p.m. of Wednesday, 31 October 2001.

25 October 2001.

VICTORIA C. DE LOS REYES
Corporate Secretary

GLOBAL EQUITIES, INC.
JANNOV PLAZA, 2295 PASONG TAMO EXTENSION, MAKATI CITY
TEL. (632) 8937258, 8442662 FAX (632) 8150126

NOTICE OF ANNUAL SHAREHOLDERS' MEETING

TO ALL SHAREHOLDERS:

Please be informed that the Annual Stockholders' Meeting of **GLOBAL EQUITIES, INC.** ("GEI") shall be held at the Manila Polo Club in Makati City, on Friday, 5 November 2001, at 8:30 o'clock in the morning, for the following purposes:

1. Call to Order
2. Certification of Notice and Quorum
3. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Stockholders' Meeting held on 8 September 2000
4. Management Report
5. Approval of Audited Financial Statements as of 31 December 2000
6. Ratification of all acts, resolutions and proceedings of the Board of Directors and of Management, done in the ordinary course of business as of 8 September 2000 up to the present
7. Election of Directors
8. Appointment of External Auditors
9. Other matters
10. Adjournment

The Board of Directors has fixed the RECORD DATE for stockholders entitled to vote at this annual meeting to be on 28 September 2001.

Stockholders who will not be able to attend the meeting may designate their respective proxies and send the proxy forms to the Office of the Corporate Secretary not later than 29 October 2001.

Registration starts at 7:30 a.m. on the scheduled meeting. For your convenience in registering your attendance, please have some form of identification such as your Professional I.D., Passport, or Driver's License.

Very truly yours,

ARSENIO C. CABRERA, JR.
Corporate Secretary

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Yes Ma'am! Can I have your name and your car's plate no.?

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Ms. Santos, there will be a service fee of P500.00 that you can pay directly to the mechanic. If your car needs major repair, our **Emergency Towing Assistance** is available for free within Metro Manila and key cities nationwide, or for the first P1,000.00 of expenses incurred. If you need **Alternative Transportation**, we can also arrange for that. Would you like us to inform your family or your office of your situation?

I'll try the mechanic first, Jane. Please send him to Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City. My car is a Blue, 4-door Sedan.

Ms. Santos, the mechanic will be there in 30 minutes. You have other FREE benefits under The Malayan Motor Insurance Policy - *Emergency Telephone Medical Advice, Message Relay & General Claims Assistance*. CAMILLE also has other Referral Program Benefits: *Arrangement for an Emergency Medical Transportation & Arrangement for Hotel & Restaurant reservation.* Our team of professional coordinators and doctors are highly trained in emergency telephone assistance.

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Lawmakers score court order vs safeguards act

AT LEAST 102 congressmen have crossed political party-lines to signify their outrage over a recent court injunction that would virtually allow imports to suffocate local industries and result in widespread unemployment, foregone government revenues and the loss of investor confidence in the Philippines.

Authored by Bukidnon Rep. Juan Miguel F. Zubiri, House Resolution No. 243 expressed the "deep concern" of the House of Representatives over the dire implications of the court injunction issued by the Valenzuela City Regional Trial Court against Republic Act 8800 or the Safeguard Measures Act, one of the crucial safety nets that government has put in place in line with its overall thrust toward globalization and trade liberalization.

According to the legislators who signed the resolution, the injunction "would result in the massive loss of jobs and revenues for the cash-strapped government and dissuade foreign entities from investing in the Philippines due to the whimsical and unpredictable way by which the country's trade and business laws are implemented."

The lawmakers were reacting to the Sept. 4 decision of Judge Floro Alejo of Branch 172 of the Valenzuela City RTC to bar the Departments of Trade and Industry, and of Agriculture from implementing the Safeguard Measures Act.

Bad loans

(From page B1)

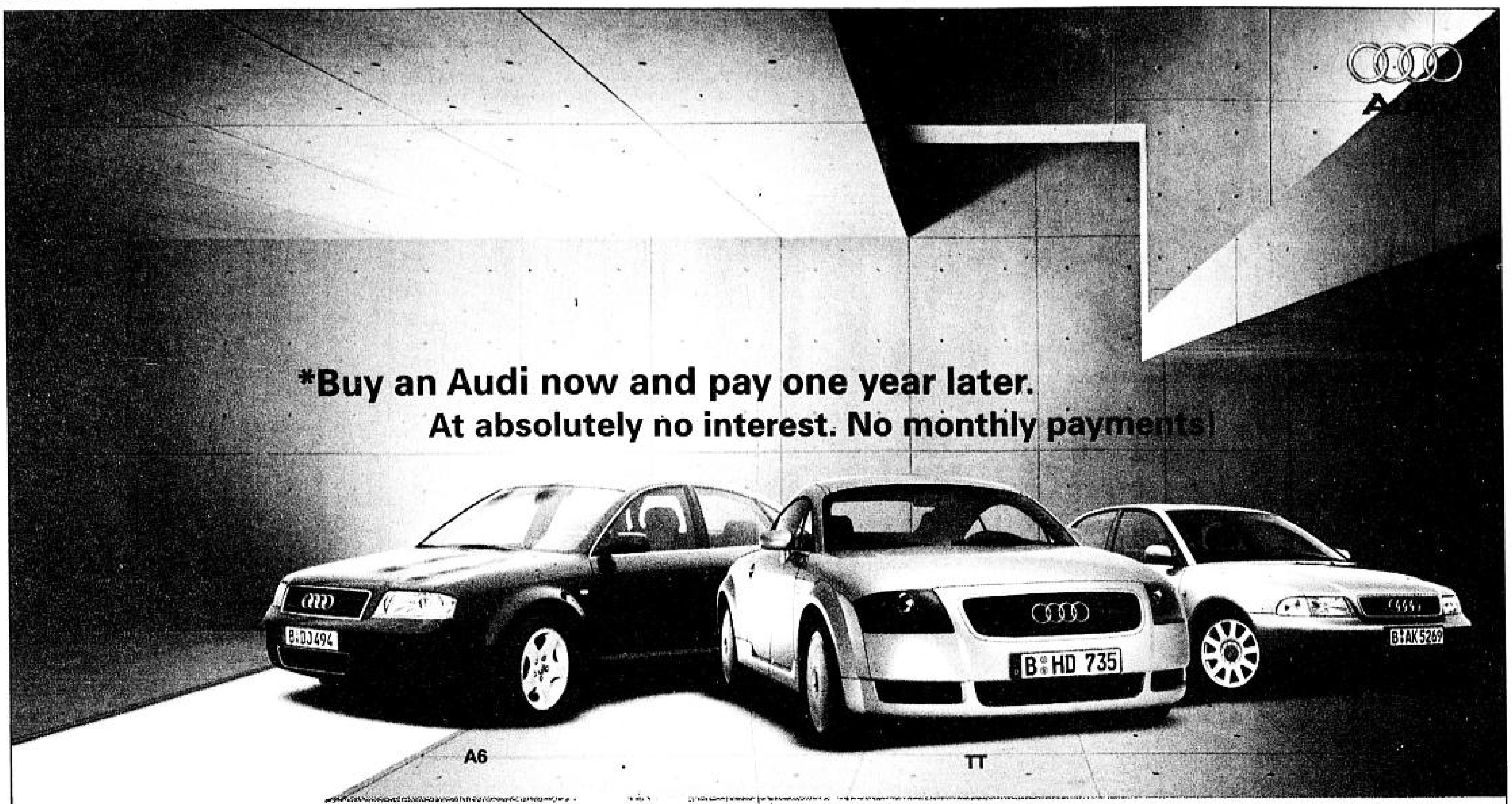
Similarly, state-owned Land Bank of the Philippines reported that its NPL ratio climbed to 26.27 percent from 24.23 percent, but this was largely because its total loan portfolio shrunk to P116.46 billion from P123.82 billion.

Philippine Bank of Communications posted a big increase in its NPL ratio to 25.26 percent from 19.81 percent in the second quarter as P1.5 billion in loans became past due bringing the aggregate amount to P6.2 billion.

United Coconut Planters Bank and Allied Banking Corp. registered slightly lower NPL ratios. UCPB's total bad loans fell by P800 million to P14.63 billion to bring down its NPL ratio to 22.82 percent from 23.37 percent while Allied Bank's NPL ratio dipped to 22.46 percent from 22.73 percent due to a P350-million reduction in bad loans.

Most of the major commercial banks in the country were nowhere near the list of the top 10 banks with the highest NPLs but some also posted increases in their bad loans ratio.

Bank of the Philippine Islands seemed to have bucked the trend by posting a decline in its bad loans ratio from 14.5 percent in June to 14.31 percent as of Sept. 21.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Audi Model	SRP	50% Downpayment	Balance after 1 yr.
A4 1.8 Automatic	P 1,794,000	P 897,000	P 897,000
A4 1.8 Turbo Tiptronic	2,104,500	1,052,250	1,052,250
A4 Turbo Tiptronic Avant	2,366,700	1,183,350	1,183,350
A6 2.4 Triptonic	3,075,000	1,537,500	1,537,500
A6 2.4 Tiptronic Quattro	3,438,500	1,719,250	1,719,250
TT Coupe 1.8 180bhp	3,105,000	1,552,500	1,552,500
TT Coupe Quattro 1.8 225 bhp	3,427,000	1,713,500	1,713,500

*Subject to approval of participating banks (UnionBank, Insular Savings Bank and Asiatrust)

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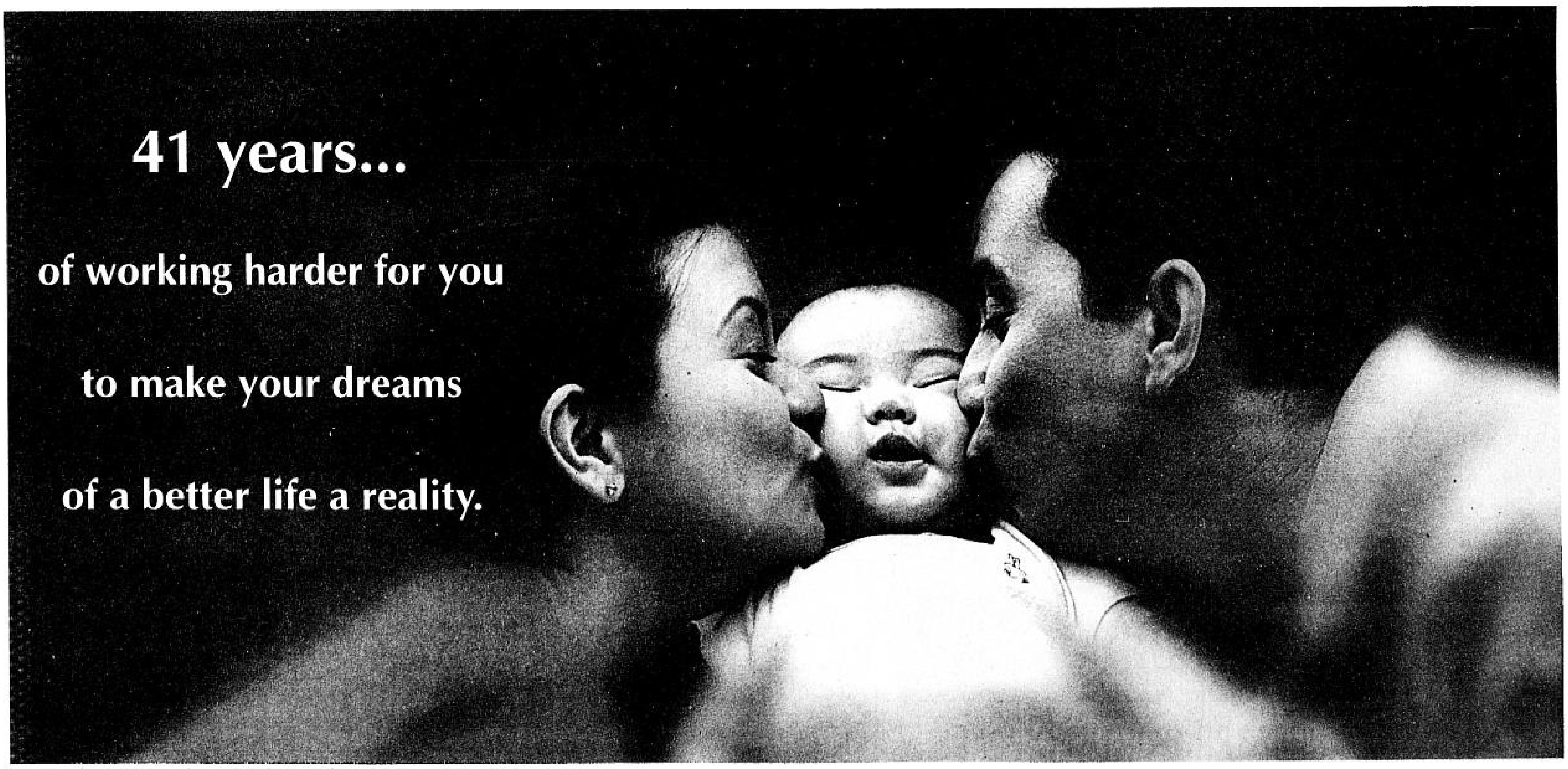
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SELLING:

Alabang A/B	1.4M/1.600M
Baguio Country Club	700,000
Camp John Hay Golf	200,000
Canlubang Golf	650,000
Capitol Hills	125,000
Celebrity	105,000
Club Filipino	228,000
CC at Tagaytay Highland	680,000
Eagle Ridge A.B.C	400/400/500
E.ridge/Evrcrst/Fontna ABCD	Please call
Forest Hills "A"	220/250/350
Manila Golf (Indv.)	10.90M
Manila Golf (Corp.)	13.95M
Manila Polo	2.8M
Manila Southwoods "A"/B	700,000
Makati Sports "A" B	300,000/300,000
Mt. Malarayat "A"/Corp	350/400
Orchard "A" B/C	230/350/350
Phil Columbian/Royale Tagaytay	Please call
Puerto Azul	140,000
Quezon City Sports	225,000
Riviera "A" B/C	200/350/400
Rockwell Club	400,000
Sta. Elena A/B	1.640M/2.3M
Sherwood	100,000
Subic Yacht (Indv.) & Corp	Please call
Tagaytay Midlands	700,000
Tagaytay Club	300,000
Tagaytay Golf	800,000
Valle Verde CC	175,000
Valley Golf	240,000
Wack Wack	6,750,000

BUYING:

Alabang A/B	1.4M/1.6M
Baguio Country Club	700,000
Camp John Hay Golf	200,000
Canlubang Golf	600,000
Capitol Hills	115,000
Celebrity	100,000
Eagle Ridge A/B/C	350/Please call
Evercrest	80,000
Forest Hills "A"	200/Please call
Manila Golf (Indv.)	10.90M
Manila Golf (Corp.)	13.80M
Manila Polo	2.8M
Manila Southwoods "A"/B	700,000
Makati Sports "A"/B	300,000/300,000
Mt. Malarayat "A"/Corp	330/350,000
Orchard A	200,000
Quezon City Sports	200,000
Riviera A	200,000
Rockwell Club	450,000
Sta. Elena A	1,630,000
Tagaytay Midlands	700,000
Tagaytay Highland Club	300,000
Tagaytay Highland Golf	800,000
Valle Verde CC/Corp	175,000/320,000
Valley Golf	240,000
Wack Wack	Please call

More shares & Playing rights available:
Installment: Tagaytay Highlands/Midlands Share, Lot, Condo, Woodlands, Belleview, Pinecrest Spa & Lounge

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CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	-	Please Call
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	-	1,700,000
Baguio Country Club	700,000	800,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	-	90,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	115,000
Camp John Hay	250,000	300,000
Canlubang	-	600,000
Canyonwoods	-	350,000
Capitol Hills	-	135,000
Cebu Country Club	-	2,000,000
Celebrity Sports Club		Please Call
Eagle Ridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Eastridge "A"	Please Call	Please Call
Evercrest "A"	-	100,000
Forest Hills "A"	210,000	220,000
Forest Hills "B"	-	230,000
Forest Hills "C"	-	300,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	Please Call	325,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	Please Call	375,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	15,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	-	12,500,000
Manila Polo	2,700,000	Please Call
Manila Southwoods "A"	-	720,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	700,000	750,000
Metropolitan Club "B"	-	160,000
Montemar (Individual)	-	40,000
Mt. Malarayat	-	350,000
Orchard Golf Club "A"	200,000	250,000
Orchard Golf Club "B"	-	350,000
Orchard Golf Club "C"	350,000	500,000
Philippine Columbian	-	80,000
Pueblo de Oro "A"/"B"/"C"	-	Please Call
Puerto Azul	-	130,000
Quezon City Sports Club	200,000	240,000
Riviera Golf & Country Club "A"	-	Please Call
Rockwell	-	550,000
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	150,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,625,000	1,700,000
Sta. Elena "B"	1,800,000	Please Call
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	400,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	200,000
Tagaytay Country Club	360,000	390,000
Tagaytay Highlands	750,000	850,000
Tagaytay Midlands	-	770,000
The Country Club	Please Call	Please Call
Valle Verde (Individual)	170,000	190,000
Valley Golf	220,000	250,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	-	7,000,000

PLAYING RIGHTS

(Available Lessors)

Alabang "A"	25,000	Mimosa Golf	25,000
Calatagan "A"	10,000	Orchard "A"	30,000
Canlubang	55,000	Riviera "A"	10,000
Eagleridge	15,000	Sta. Elena	60,000
Eastridge "A"	20,000	Tagaytay CC	20,000
Forest Hills	30,000	Tagaytay Golf	40,000
Manila Southwoods	40,000	Tagaytay Mid.	35,000
Makati Sports "A"	25,000	Valley Golf	20,000
Manila Golf	300,000	Wack-Wack	90,000

For more information, please call:
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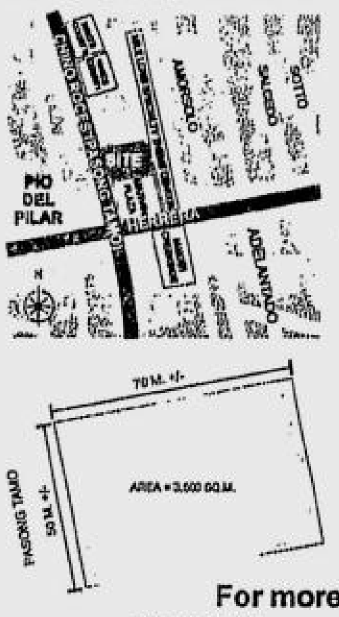

- The property is a 3,500 sq.m. rectangular shaped lot
- Located within the vicinity of mid-rise office and residential developments southwest of the Makati CBD
- Enclosed with a steel fence without any improvements or structure standing on the site
- PLDT, Smart Communications, public mailing system and other privately owned companies cater to the communications requirements of business and residential developments in the area
- Situated along Chino Roces Avenue, property is zoned for commercial use
- Utilities readily available to the site include overhead power, water, telephone and public sewer.

For more information, please contact
Benjie Pablo
Mobile: (0918) 903 9918
bpablo@fpdsavills.com.ph
Argy Noblejas
Mobile: (0918) 914 3309
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Nov. holidays seen dampening trading

Doris C. Dumlao

MARKET PLAY

THE STOCK market is expected to consolidate this week, with some upside potential, albeit on thin trading volume, ahead of the long weekend holiday to remember the dead.

Rumors of a military coup, concerns over bad loans in the banking system and depressing corporate earnings pulled down the Philippine Stock Exchange composite index last week by 1.7 percent.

The index managed to close at 1,002.52 points, however, on late-week bargain-hunting following news of the conclusion of a P14-billion deal between San Miguel Corp. and RFM Corp. and a new offshore contract for International Container Terminal Services Inc.

This week, the market will trade for only three days in observance of "All Saints Day" on Nov. 1.

"We expect the market to move sideways, as the early earnings report continue to point lower earnings for the third quarter. Investors will likely await the release of third-quarter results to search for a direction in the market," BPI Securities Corp. analyst Roberto Cano said.

"The market's value turnover remains low. This may be an indication that the selling pressure is lightening up. There are also some concerns over wage increases, which may dampen investor interest. The market is likely to consolidate at between 980 and 1,050 (points)," Cano said.

Worldsec International Securities Philippines Inc. research head Eric Claudio said he was "less bearish," as more investors were becoming convinced that the 1,000 level would give the market a strong support.

Claudio said there was some net foreign selling last week, but liquidity remained tight.

"There must be some reason why the market is up. It might have been that some traders believe this could be the bottom," he said.

After a slow start, the Phisix ended the week 12.55 points higher on Friday to stay above 1,000.

ICTSI was the week's biggest gainer. The stock was up by almost 16 percent.

BPI Securities' Cano said the breaching of the 1,000-point psychological resistance level could be a sign of market strength, as he suggested that technical indicators were now biased toward a technical rebound.

"However, we still have to see if the market will hold support at 1,000 and then break the 1,050 resistance. The current market level is an opportunity to accumulate for a short-term trade," Cano said.

Online stock market firm 2tradeasia.com said defensive strategies were likely to persist within the global bear market.

"In terms of technical chart patterns, jigsaw movements in key indices are bound to be more prevalent. However, it might pay to consider potential reversals, especially for countries that have gone low enough and have minimized further risk of foreign capitulation. The suggested strategy is to take advantage of lows and take profits on rises. The Phisix's immediate support is at 980 to 1,000, resistance at 1,030 to 1,050," it said.

PSE sees 2 more IPOs

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange expects to end the year with one or two more initial public offerings despite a gloomy investment environment that has made the local bourse one of the worst-performing in Asia.

Documents from the stock exchange indicate at least four new IPOs in the pipeline: Federal Chemicals Inc., Citystate Savings Bank Inc., TFS Inc. and Jolliville Holdings Inc.

PSE head of listings Conchitina Panganiban said at least one of these IPO applicants would likely brave the market before year's end.

She said Federal Chemicals, for instance, had secured a pre-effective clearance from the Securities and Exchange Commission to pursue its offering.

Federal Chemicals plans to offer around 12.5 million primary shares, or 33 percent of its total stock, at P6.70 to P7.50 each.

The company is hoping to generate up to P94 million in fresh funds from its IPO. Its lead underwriter and issue manager is RCBC Capital Corp. If it pushes its offering, it will have a post-IPO market capitalization of P251 million to P281 million.

Citystate Savings, meanwhile, is planning to offer 11.2 million primary shares at P10.25 to P11.55 each. Its offering is being handled by Abacus Capital & Investment Corp.

TFS, a pawnshop operator owned by the Tambunting family, and Jolliville are not expected to push through with their IPOs until next year.

Doris C. Dumlao

Shares close higher

(From page B1)

On Thursday, the index rose 1.1 percent, ending a five-session decline that shaved off 6.1 percent from the index.

Blue chip Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. was among the most actively traded, rising P10, or 2.7 percent, to P380. The stock took its cue from the 6-cent, or 0.8-percent, rise to $7.25 of PLDT's American Depositary Receipts in New York Thursday.

Other analysts said institutional demands might have also helped the market post gains. *AP*

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CLUB	SELLING	BUYING
Alabang CC	1,500,000	1,300,000
Baguio CC	720,000	Pls. Call
Camp John Hay	300,000	-
Canyon Woods	300,000	-
Capitol Hills	125,000	-
Celebrity Sports	195,000	-
The Country Club	4,500,000	-
Eagleridge-B	400,000	-
Eastridge	200,000	-
Filipinas Golf	330,000	-
Fontana C	130,000	-
Fontana D	80,000	-
Forest Hills A	253,000	230,000
Forest Hills B	-	240,000
Manila Golf	12,000,000	-
Manila Polo	2,700,000	2,500,000
Manila Southwoods A	700,000	Pls. Call
Manila Southwoods B	Pls Call	-
Mimosa A	200,000	-
Orchard	250,00	250,000
Riviera	Pls. Call	-
Sherwood	200,000	-
Sta. Elena	1,800,000	-
Subic Golf	310,000	-
Tagaytay CC	390,000	-
Tagaytay Highlands	700,000	-
Tagaytay Midlands	730,000	-
Tivoli Royale	230,000	-
Valle Verde A	180,000	-
Valle Verde C	300,000	-
Wack-wack	8,800,000	-

Playing Rights available lessor

Alabang	60,000	Tagaytay CC	40,000
Eagleridge	50,000	Tagaytay Midlands	50,000
Orchard	Best Buy	Tagaytay Highlands	50,000
Manila Southwoods	60,000	Wack-wack	90,000

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		ASKED PRICE	BID PRICE
1.	ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A"	-	1,300,000.00
2.	ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B"	Please call	-
3.	BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	750,000.00	-
4.	CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	Please call	-
5.	CANLUBANG GOLF CLUB	750,000.00	600,000.00
6.	CAMP JOHN HAY GOLF CLUB "A"	300,000.00	250,000.00
7.	CAMP JOHN HAY GOLF CLUB "C"	-	Please call
8.	CAPITOL HILLS GOLF CLUB	Please call	-
9.	CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	-	Please call
10.	COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY	360,000.00	-
11.	CLUB FILIPINO	210,000.00	-
12.	EAGLERIDGE GOLD CLUB "B"	600,000.00	-
13.	MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	300,000.00	-
14.	MANILA POLO CLUB	Please call	3,000,000 all in
15.	MANILA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB (Individual)	-	Please call
16.	MANILA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB (Corporate)	Please call	Please call
17.	MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A"	750,000.00	650,000.00
18.	MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B"	-	Please call
19.	MIMOSA C-2	350,000.00	-
20.	MONTEMAR BEACH CLUB	-	30,000.00
21.	MT. MALARAYAT "B"	450,000.00	-
22.	MT. MALARAYAT "C"	650,000.00	-
23.	ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "A"	250,000.00	-
24.	ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "B"	400,000.00	-
25.	ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "C"	500,000.00	-
26.	PUERTO AZUL BEACH CLUB	140,000.00	-
27.	PUNTA FUEGO (IND.)	945,000.00	-
28.	ROCKWELL	600,000.00	450,000.00
29.	RIVIERA GOLF CLUB "B"	350,000.00	250,000.00
30.	STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB	1,700,000.00	
31.	SUBIC YATCH CLUB	750,000.00 all in	-
32.	SPLENDIDO	600,000.00	-
33.	SHERWOOD HILLS "A"	150,000.00	-
34.	SHERWOOD HILLS "B"	350,000.00	-
35.	TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS INT'L. GOLF CLUB	900,000.00	-
36.	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS GOLF CLUB	740,000.00	-
37.	VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB	175,000.00	Please call
38.	VALLEY GOLF CLUB	320,000.00	Please call
39.	VERDEMAR GOLF CLUB, INC. (CEBU)	Please call	-
40.	WACK WACK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	Please call	Please call
41.	THE COUNTRY CLUB	Please call	Please call
42.	OTHERS	Please call	-

PLAYING RIGHTS ALSO AVAILABLE

ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB	30,000.00
CANLUBANG GOLF CLUB	50,000.00
CALATAGAN GOLF CLUB	free rental
COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY	30,000.00
MAKATI SPORTS CLUB	20,000.00
MANILA SOUTHWOODS	30,000.00
STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB	65,000.00
TAGAYTAY INT'L. GOLF CLUB	60,000.00
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	50,000.00
VALLEY GOLF CLUB	15,000.00
WACK WACK GOLF CLUB	90,000.00
ORCHARD GOLF CLUB	20,000.00
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Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Friday, October 26, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	6,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	42	43	41.5	42	621,100
China Banking Corp.	525	550	525	550	32,870
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	18	18.75	18	18.75	82,000
Global Business Bank Inc.	68	68	68	68	100
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	169	170	168	168	51,000
Philippine National Bank	47	47.5	46.5	47.5	26,900
Phil. Savings Bank	29	29	29	29	1,000
Security Bank Corp.	18.5	18.5	17.5	18	6,800
Union Bank of the Phil.	16.5	16.75	16.5	16.75	7,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	60,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1150	1170	1150	1170	1,070
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1030	1055	1030	1055	10,550
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	430,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	545	545	545	545	77,220
Ipeople Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	30,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	300,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	375	380	375	380	111,080
Ivantage Corp.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	30,300,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.015	0.015	0.014	0.015	27,800,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	21.25	21.5	21.25	21.5	797,500
Manila Electric Co. B	32	32	31.5	31.5	622,600
Petron Corp.	1.12	1.16	1.12	1.14	3,352,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.8	0.84	0.8	0.84	80,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	20,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.38	1.46	1.38	1.46	3,396,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.39	0.41	0.39	0.41	250,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.22	1.3	1.2	1.24	160,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	50,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	18,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.6	5.7	5.5	5.6	2,672,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	11	11	11	11	125,000
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	24	24	24	24	4,900
Pancake House Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	10,000
RFM Corp.	2.06	2.14	2.06	2.08	1,535,000
San Miguel Corp. A	38.5	39.5	38.5	39.5	41,100
San Miguel Corp. B	46	46	45.5	45.5	228,000
Universal Robina Corp.	4.1	4.15	4.1	4.1	439,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.4	0.4	0.37	0.37	40,000
Ayala Corp.	4.55	4.55	4.5	4.55	1,161,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	200,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11	11	11	11	500
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	100,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	150,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	3,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10	10	10	10	200
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.64	0.65	0.63	0.64	6,670,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.63	0.63	0.63	0.63	50,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	22.5	22.5	22	22.5	103,000
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	20,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	100,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	50,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.2	1.22	1.2	1.22	100,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.58	0.59	0.57	0.58	340,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	90,000
Music Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	400,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Active Alliance Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	50,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	100,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.78	0.79	0.78	0.79	300,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	100,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	170,000
Manila Jockey Club	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	17,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	26	26	26	26	200,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.-Pref	10	11	10	11	4,000
Jollibee Warrants	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	50,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10	10	10	10	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10	10	10	10	8,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	1,000
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.0046	0.0046	0.004	0.004	68,000,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8	8	8	8	36,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.15	4.15	4.15	4.15	1,753,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	450,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	20,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	410,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	130,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	4,689,000
City & Land Developers	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	50,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	24,000
SM Development Corp.	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	50,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.6	3,672,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.19	0.23	0.19	0.23	80,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	60,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.021	0.021	0.021	0.021	1,000,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.155	0.165	0.155	0.165	800,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	10,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	5,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	5,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	20,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	13,000,000
Interport Res.	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	3,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	2,000,000

CURRENCIES

Oct. 26, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.119821	1.000000	51.9700
Japan	Yen	0.009110	0.008135	0.4228
United Kingdom	Pound	1.600224	1.429000	74.2651
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.143751	0.128370	6.6714
Switzerland	Franc	0.677406	0.604924	31.4379
Canada	Dollar	0.711992	0.635809	33.0430
Singapore	Dollar	0.614948	0.549149	28.5393
Australia	Dollar	0.564996	0.504541	26.2210
Bahrain	Dinar	2.970505	2.652661	137.8588
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.298619	0.266667	13.8587
Brunei	Dollar	0.611924	0.546448	28.3989
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.611423	0.546001	28.3757
Thailand	Baht	0.024963	0.022292	1.1585
UAE	Dirham	0.304962	0.272331	14.1530
Korea	Won	0.000868	0.000775	0.0403
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.893000	46.4092
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.456584	23.7287
France	Franc	0.152450	0.136137	7.0750
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453781	0.405226	21.0596
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.064897	3.3727
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.022137	1.1505
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000461	0.0240
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.150192	7.8055
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004454	0.2315
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005367	0.2789
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.022137	1.1505
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.133876	58.9275

THE DREADED WORD

Fed bank president admits US recession

WASHINGTON—With the housing sector weakening and consumer spending slowing, a Federal Reserve regional bank president on Friday used the dreaded word public policymakers have been so far reluctant to utter—recession.

"I suspect (third-quarter growth) will be slightly below zero and I wouldn't be surprised if the fourth quarter isn't a little bit under zero as well," said Robert McTeer in a speech to the Downtown Rotary Club of Fort Worth, Texas.

"I think it will eventually be designated a recession," he said.

While Federal Reserve chair Alan Greenspan and Anthony Santomero, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, also spoke on Friday, they did not touch on the monetary or economic outlook.

A recession is usually designated as at least two quarters of shrinkage in economic output. While the second quarter posted an annual growth rate of 0.3 percent, most analysts expect the third quarter to show a decline in output—the first negative quarterly reading since 1993. Many analysts also see the fourth quarter as showing a decline as well.

But members of Washington's economic policy establishment have been wary of using the word, even when they've agreed it may be technically correct to do so.

Senior White House economic advisor Lawrence Lindsey on Oct. 16 predicted, "we are going to have two quarters of negative growth." But Lindsey, himself a former Fed governor during the mid-'90s, declined to repeat that prediction in subsequent interviews. *Reuters*

WTO ministers head for Doha amid high security

GENEVA—Amid tight security, World Trade Organization (WTO) ministers will meet next month in the Gulf state of Qatar for talks that could lead to a new round of trade liberalization negotiations.

The highly anticipated gathering, from Nov. 9 to 13, called to debate an agenda for a new round, is expected to draw more than 2,000 government delegates, as well as hundreds of journalists and activists.

For those apprehensive about the emirate's proximity to military action in Afghanistan, Qatar recently reassured them it is "among the safest countries in the world."

Despite a global slowdown and uncertainty about the effects of last month's terror attacks in the United States, the WTO's 142-strong membership is divided over the merits of beginning a new series of trade talks as well as over many of the issues at stake.

But they will all be united in a desire to see the meeting succeed, especially after the resounding failure to agree on an agenda at a similar gathering two years ago in the US city of Seattle.

The Seattle talks fell apart in the face of sharp differences on agricultural subsidies and complaints from developing countries that they had yet to taste the promised fruits of the 1987-1994 Uruguay Round.

But most people will remember the meeting for the massive protests it sparked, with some 40,000 human rights activists, ecologists and trade unionists taking over the streets of Seattle.

Bitterly opposed to economic globalization, they mobilized to accuse the WTO of serving the interests of big corporations at the expense of the poor and the environment. *AFP*

Motorola raises $1.6B

NEW YORK—Motorola Inc., the world's No. 2 mobile telephone maker, on Friday raised $1.65 billion from offerings of 10-year notes and securities automatically convertible into company stock.

The Schaumburg, Illinois-based company was able to increase the size of both sales, though it expects this year to post its first full-year operating loss in at least 45 years. It plans to use proceeds to help it cut short-term debt, which totaled about $2 billion as of Sept. 30.

"People are obviously showing confidence in the company's ability to restructure the business, and protect the balance sheet and cash flow," said Jeffrey Schlesinger, a senior wireless technology analyst at UBS Warburg LLC in New York, who rates Motorola a "buy."

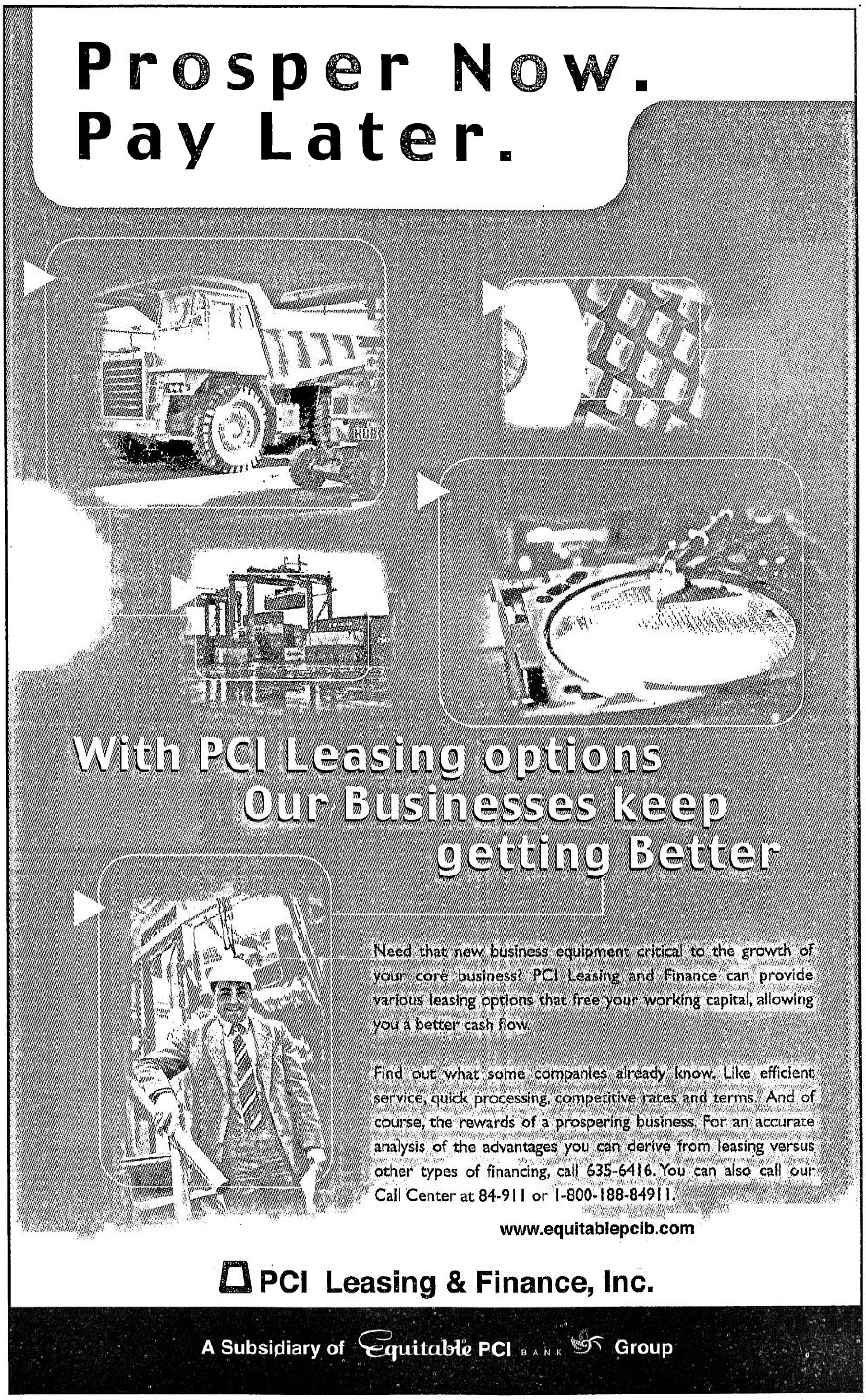
Motorola sold $1.05 billion of its "mandatory" convertible securities, $175 million more than it originally planned, and $600 million of notes, $200 million more than planned, despite being downgraded last week by Standard & Poor's.

Shares of Motorola closed Friday on the New York Stock Exchange at $17.15, down 13 cents. They have fallen 15 percent this year.

Motorola was the third money-losing telecom giant in recent months to raise cash by selling convertible securities.

In August, Lucent Technologies Inc. sold $1.89 billion of 30-year preferred stock, while Nortel Networks Corp. sold $1.8 billion of seven-year senior notes. Neither of these securities carried the "mandatory" structure.

"Three months ago, people were worried that Motorola could turn into another Lucent, and would have to sell off many businesses to raise cash," said Todd Bernier, a stock analyst at Morningstar Inc. in Chicago. "Any time you can raise equity-linked capital, it's a sign investors are optimistic that Motorola's prospects are improving." *Reuters*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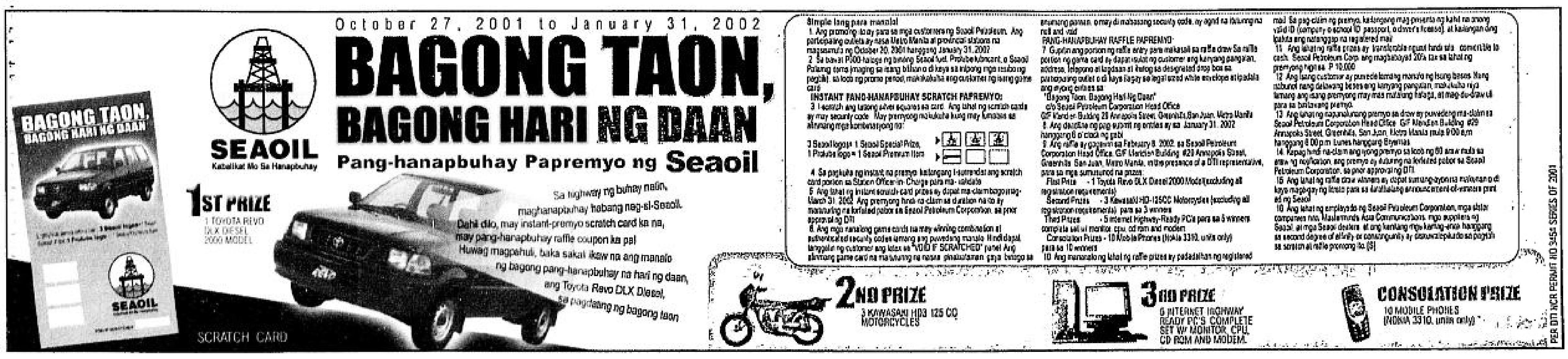
October 27, 2001 to January 31, 2002

BAGONG TAON,
BAGONG HARI NG DAAN

Pang-hanapbuhay Papremyo ng Seaoil

SEAOIL
Kabalikat Mo Sa Hanapbuhay

1ST PRIZE
1 TOYOTA REVO
DLX DIESEL
2000 MODEL

SCRATCH CARD

Sa highway ng buhay natin,
maghanapbuhay habang nag-si-Seaoil.
Dahil dito, may instant-premyo scratch card ka na,
may pang-hanapbuhay raffle coupon ka pa!
Huwag magpahuli, baka sakali ikaw na ang manalo
ng bagong pang-hanapbuhay na hari ng daan,
ang Toyota Revo DLX Diesel,
sa pagdating ng bagong taon

2ND PRIZE
3 KAWASAKI HD3 125 CC
MOTORCYCLES

3RD PRIZE
5 INTERNET HIGHWAY
READY PC'S COMPLETE
SET W/ MONITOR, CPU,
CD ROM AND MODEM.

CONSOLATION PRIZE
10 MOBILE PHONES
(NOKIA 3310, units only)

PER DTI NCR PERMIT NO 3454 SERIES OF 2001

Republic of the Philippines
City of Parañaque
Metro Manila

Office of the Treasurer

NOTICE OF DELINQUENCY IN THE PAYMENT OF REAL PROPERTY TAX

PURSUANT TO R.A. 7160, SECTION 254 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991, HEREUNDER ARE THE REAL PROPERTY TAX DELINQUENTS:

2-B Second

NAME OF TAX DELINQUENTS	TAX DECLARATION NUMBERS	DATE UPON W/C THE TAX BECAME DELINQUENT	AMOUNT
1.) UNIWIDE HOLDINGS INC.	E015-06346	1999-2001	64,414,545.93
UNIWIDE HOLDINGS INC.	E015-06347	1999-2001	22,958,322.99
UNIWIDE HOLDINGS INC.	E015-06348	1999-2001	3,189,888.00
		SUB-TOTAL	90,562,756.92
2.) STANDFORD RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT CORP.	E002-04415	1998-2001	999,194.40
	E002-04427	1997-2001	56,446.51
	E002-04428	1997-2001	35,436.48
	E002-04429	1997-2001	35,436.48
	E002-04430	1997-2001	469,321.12
	E002-04431	1997-2001	188,204.29
	E002-04433	1998-2001	76,539.04
	E002-04435	1998-2001	103,437.80
	E002-04438	1998-2001	84,202.74
	E002-04447	1998-2001	69,675.36
	E002-04455	1998-2001	69,819.72
	E002-04456	1998-2001	69,819.72
	E002-04463	1998-2001	69,603.18
	E002-04464	1998-2001	69,747.54
	E002-04472	1998-2001	69,795.66
	E002-04493	1997-2001	59,030.40
	E002-04505	1997-2001	97,201.68
	E002-04512	1997-2001	89,753.82
	E002-04514	2001	10,166.04
	E002-04515	1993-2001	251,272.34
	E002-04520	1998-2001	69,603.18
	E002-04551	2001	8,818.72
	E002-04553	1998-2001	75,706.18
	E002-04567	1993-2001	20,698,985.42
	E002-04569/70	1993-2001	25,029.82
	E002-04571/72	1993-2001	19,662.05
	E002-04574/76/77	1997-2001	26,209.26
	E002-04583/84	1993-2001	22,840.61
	E002-04586/85/88	1993-2001	22,078.31
	E002-04590/91	1993-2001	25,029.82
	E002-04595/96	1993-2001	25,029.82
	E002-04605	1996-2001	8,736.42
	E002-04607	1998-2001	777,816.00
	E002-04608	1998-2001	419,764.05
		SUB-TOTAL	25,199,477.38
3.) FILSTREAM INTERNATIONAL INC.	E015-02462	1995-2001	84,388.42
	E015-02464	1995-2001	180,510.00
	E015-02468	4th 1998-2001	150,057.92
	E015-02472	4th 1998-2001	57,085.35
	E015-02473	4th 1998-2001	107,352.84
	E015-02474	4th 1998-2001	102,088.78
	E015-02479	2nd 1995-2001	216,495.30
	E015-02481	1993-2001	239,035.46
	E015-02486	1995-2001	183,672.30
	E015-02489	1993-2001	239,035.46
	E015-02491	1995-2001	226,106.08
	E015-02493	1993-2001	239,035.46
	E015-02497	4th 1996-2001	75,862.80
	E015-02499	1995-2001	226,106.08
	E015-02500	4th 1998-2001	79,319.62
	E015-02501	1996-2001	153,265.54
	E015-02502	2nd 1996-2001	157,870.20
	E015-02503	4th 1998-2001	94,891.38
	E015-02504	1997-2001	131,097.76
	E015-02506	1995-2001	196,458.30
	E015-02508	2nd 1999-2001	69,294.84
	E015-02509	4th 1998-2001	81,216.72
	E015-02510	1993-2001	259,044.70
	E015-02516	1997-2001	139,946.60
	E015-02522	1993-2001	259,044.70
	E015-02523	1998-2001	121,702.79
	E015-02524	1995-2001	202,185.32
	E015-02526	4th 1998-2001	82,275.50
	E015-02530	2001	20,656.78
	E015-02532	1993-2001	264,424.04
	E015-02538	4th 1998-2001	82,275.50
	E015-02539	4th 1998-2001	94,891.38
	E015-02540	2nd 1995-2001	193,591.28
	E015-02542	2nd 1995-2001	188,107.80
	E015-02545	2nd 1993-2001	3,699,897.57
	E015-02546	1993-2001	11,669,301.20
	E015-02547	2nd 1993-2001	2,670,092.97
	E015-02548	1995-2001	179,607.45
		SUB-TOTAL	23,416,902.19
4.) GABRIEL LAURA ELORDE	E009-08762	1994-2001	14,715,495.87
5.) HEIRS OF HERMOGENES RODRIGUEZ	E010-06781	1989-2001	5,875,975.04
6.) AMADO BUENAVENTURA	E011-04259/04260	1983-2001	4,550,030.04
7.) VER VILLAROMAN INC.	E006-09194	1991-2001	4,175,423.59
8.) HEIRS OF FAUSTINO DE LEON ET AL	E010-06778	1989-2001	4,131,768.80
9.) CONCEPTS & SYSTEM DEV. INC.	E001-02747	1992-2001	195,392.56
	E001-02763	2001	16,450.00
	E001-02766	1992-2001	212,435.92
	E001-02790	2001	50,722.40
	E001-02769	1995-2001	156,450.00
	E001-02776	1997-2001	108,290.00
	E001-02778	1992-2001	228,882.64
	E001-02779	1996-2001	151,298.90
	E001-02788	1992-2001	266,736.48
	E001-02795	2001	5,531.80
	E001-22380	1997-2001	100,768.46
	E001-22383	1997-2001	100,768.46
	E001-22385	1997-2001	73,243.00
	E001-22390	2001	26,790.00
	E001-22391	1997-2001	71,163.00
	E001-022393	1997-2001	71,163.00
	E001-022398	2000-2001	24,058.60
	E001-22400	1997-2001	71,163.80
	E001-22405	1997-2001	71,163.80
	E001-22411	3rd 1999-2001	31,234.80
	E001-22417	1997-2001	71,163.80
	E001-22420	1997-2001	85,854.16
	E001-22425	1997-2001	100,768.46
	E001-22426	2000-2001	29,090.96
	E001-22428	1997-2001	100,768.46
	E001-22432	1999-2001	33,494.66
		SUB-TOTAL	2,454,849.02
10.) PURISIMA VER	E006-09192	1991-2001	1,940,073.68
11.) JUDY PHILIPPINES INC.	E007-03128	1986-2001	482,682.43
	E007-03129	1986-2001	336,095.90
	E007-03130	1986-2001	213,894.31
		SUB-TOTAL	1,032,672.64
12.) AMOR FELICIANO	E009-09455	1990-2001	758,775.56

3-A First

NAME OF TAX DELINQUENTS	TAX DECLARATION NUMBERS	DATE UPON W/C THE TAX BECAME DELINQUENT	AMOUNT
1.) PACIFIC EQUIPMENT CORP. Classification: Land Industrial Barangay San Martin De Porres	E012-03925	1979-2001	5,978,651.24
2.) PASTOR LIM Classification: Improvement Barangay San Isidro	E011-15167	1995-2001	4,139,764.48
3.) GLOBO DEVELOPMENT INC. Classification: Improvement Barangay Baclaran	E002-04724	2000-2001	4,581.78
	E002-04732	1988-2001	40,294.48
	E002-04736	1988-2001	71,188.36
	E002-04744	1989-2001	34,063.00
	E002-04746	1989-2001	48,751.20
	E002-04748	1988-2001	65,033.04
	E002-04760	1988-2001	37,602.20
	E002-04763	1988-2001	32,212.84
	E002-04764	1988-2001	49,806.28
	E002-04767	1988-2001	82,690.88
	E002-04772	1988-2001	30,867.36
	E002-04788	1988-2001	42,651.84
	E002-04789	2001	1,478.40
	E002-04792	1988-2001	38,851.92
Classification: Improvement Barangay Baclaran	E002-04798	1988-2001	73,482.00
	E002-04799	1988-2001	64,371.12
	E002-04823	1988-2001	59,468.12
	E002-04824	1988-2001	2,683,205.64
	E002-04830	1990-2001	353,330.96
Classification: Land Parking	E002-04800/01/05	1988-2001	53,096.82
	E002-04806/07/08	1988-2001	53,096.82
	E002-04809/10/11	1988-2001	53,096.82
Classification: Residential Improvement	E002-04813/16	1988-2001	18,550.72
	E002-04818/19/20	1988-2001	31,473.62
	E002-04821/22	1988-2001	19,002.11
		SUB-TOTAL	4,042,446.33
5.) CELERINO AGUSTIN c/o Clanta B. Ballesteros Classification: Land Residential Barangay San Dionisio	E010-05349	1977-2001	2,764,520.00
6.) VM TOWER CON CORPORATION Classification: Land Barangay Baclaran	E002-04719/04831	1988-2001	2,425,577.00
7.) METROWORLD PROP. & HOLDING CORP. Classification: Land	E008-08204	1996-2001	1,968,673.93
Building	E008-08205		
Land	E008-08231		
Land	E008-08232		
Land	E008-08302		
Land	E010-06793		
Building	E010-06794		
Land	E011-04341		
Land Barangay Moonwalk	E015-00140		
8.) PHILIPPINE APPAREL INC. Classification: Building Barangay San Martin De Porres	E012-03833	1995-2001	1,921,206.27
9.) HERMINIO AND BONIFACIO SORILLA Classification: Land	E012-03832	1995-2001	786,894.62
Building	E012-04148		624,522.25
Barangay San Martin De Porres		SUB-TOTAL	1,411,416.87
10.) ELORDE SPORTS COMPLEX Classification: Improvement Barangay San Antonio	E009-09527	1995-2001	1,174,006.71
11.) PERCIVAL GAVIOLA Classification: Land Residential Barangay Sun Valley	E014-00358	1972-2001	885,163.28
12.)VICENTE PENALA Classification: Land Residential Barangay Sun Valley	E014-00827	1980-2001	395,045.70
13.) HUSTO LONZAME Classification: Land Residential Barangay San Dionisio	E010-05525	1948-2001	300,673.51
14.) ROMANITO SUNEGA Classification: Land	E003-12505	1994-2001	188,040.80
Building Barangay Don Bosco	E003-12506		
15.) RODOLFO AGATI Classification: Residential Land Barangay San Isidro	E011-10178/79	1988-2001	136,072.38

AT ANY TIME BEFORE THE DISTRAINT OF PERSONAL PROPERTY, PAYMENT OF THE TAX WITH SURCHARGES, INTERESTS AND PENALTES MAY BE MADE. IN CASE OF FAILURE TO PAY THE BASIC REAL PROPERTY TAX OR ANY OTHER TAX LEVIED UNDER THE REAL PROPERTY TAXATION UPON THE EXPIRATION OF THE PERIODS AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 250 ON PAYMENT OF REAL PROPERTY TAXES IN INSTALLMENTS AS PROVIDED IN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE, OR WHEN DUE, AS THE CASE MAY BE, SHALL SUBJECT THE TAXPAYER TO THE PAYMENT OF INTEREST OF THE RATE OF TWO (2%) PERCENT PER MONTH ON THE UNPAID AMOUNT OR A FRACTION THEREOF, UNTIL THE DELINQUENT TAX SHALL HAVE BEEN FULLY PAID: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT IN NO CASE SHALL THE TOTAL INTEREST ON THE UNPAID TAX OR PORTION THEREOF EXCEED THIRTY-SIX (36) MONTHS. FURTHER, AND UNLESS THE TAX, SURCHARGES AND PENALTIES ARE PAID BEFORE THE EXPIRATION OF THE YEAR FOR WHICH THE TAX IS DUE EXCEPT WHEN THE NOTICE OF THE ASSESSMENT OR SPECIAL LEVY IS CONTESTED ADMINISTRATIVELY OR JUDICIALLY PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 3, TITLE II, BOOK II OF THE CODE, THE DELINQUENT REAL PROPERTY WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC AUCTION, AND THE TITLE TO THE PROPERTY WILL BE VESTED IN THE PURCHASES, SUBJECT, HOWEVER, TO THE RIGHT OF THE DELINQUENT OWNER OF THE PROPERTY OR ANY PERSON HAVING LEGAL INTEREST THEREIN TO REDEEM THE PROPERTY WITHIN ONE (1) YEAR FROM THE DATE OF SALE.

PERSONAL PROPERTY MAY BE DISTRAINED TO EFFECT PAYMENT, AND/OR LEVY UPON THE REAL PROPERTY OF THE DELINQUENT TAXPAYER TO SATISFY THE DELINQUENCY.

(Sgd.) **LIBERATO M. CARABEO**
ICO-CITY TREASURER

(PDI – Oct. 29, 2001)

NATIONAL HOME MORTGAGE FINANCE CORPORATION

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation (NHMFC), a fully owned government corporation attached to the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), wishes to solicit expression of interest for financial advisory services in regard to the proposed liquidation of its housing portfolio acquired under the Unified Home Lending Program (UHLP). The portfolio consists of housing loans extended to low and medium-income borrowers between 1986 to 1996, at rates of 9%, 12% and 16.0% totaling about 180,000 accounts.

The first pre-qualification meeting shall be held on November 12, 2001, 2:00 p.m. at the Boardroom, 5/F Filomena Building. Interested parties should submit their Letter of Intent to the Chairman, Pre-qualification, Bids and Awards Committee -- Financial Advisor, 5/F Filomena Bldg., 104 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City on or before the first pre-qualification meeting. Those who have earlier expressed their interest thru the Office of the President, NHMFC / Office of the Chair, HUDCC need not write again.

FILOMENA BUILDING III, 104 AMORSOLO ST., LEGASPI VILLAGE, MAKATI CITY
TELEPHONE NUMBER 893-15-01

(PDI - October 29, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The Department of Transportation and Communications invites computer companies to bid for the **DOTC New Computer and Printer Purchase,** consisting of:
    1.1 Purchase of personal computers, notebook computers, laser printers, color printers and uninterruptible power supply (UPS) units, with the specification and additional equipment and software as specified in the Terms of Reference.
    1.2 Provision of warranty on parts and labor as specified for these units, and maintenance services by technically qualified personnel for hardware.
2. Bidders should have been in this business for at least three (3) years.
3. Implementation of the **DOTC New Computer and Printer Purchase** shall be completed within two (2) months after receipt of the Notice to Proceed.
4. The total amount estimated for this project will be PHP 8,375,500.00.
5. Instructions for eligibility may be secured from the Office of the PEAC-IT Chairman at Unit 34, 3/F, Columbia Tower, Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City, from **November 5, 2001 to November 9, 2001** up to **5:00 PM.** The following steps will be followed:
    5.1. Payment of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) as non-refundable charges at the Cashier's Office, 5/F, Columbia Tower, Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City.
    5.2. Presentation of the official receipt of payment and letter of intent.

    All required eligibility documents shall be submitted to the:

    Office of the Chairman, PEAC-IT
    Department of Transportation and Communications
    Unit 34, 3/F Columbia Tower, Ortigas Avenue
    Mandaluyong City

    on or before **November 16, 2001** until **5:00 PM. Late submissions will not be accepted.**

The Department reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality therein, accept such bid considered most advantageous to the government, or refrain from making any award.

(Sgd.) **ALAN A. TAN**
Asst. Secretary for Legal Affairs
and Administrative Services
and Chairman, PEAC-IT

(PDI – Oct. 29, 30 & Nov. 5, 2001)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) invites all interested Service Contractors to participate in the bidding for the Maintenance and Servicing of the following IT equipment, various brands installed at the NFA Central Office and National Capital Region for Year 2002:

412	Units Personal computers and its peripherals
452	Units Printers
11	Units Server
9	Units Scanner
9	Units UPS
1	Unit 21" Monitor

The schedule of bidding activities is as follows:

November 5-6, 2001	- Issuance of list of pre-qualification requirements
November 14, 2001	- Deadline for submission of pre-qualification documents
November 19-20, 2001	- Issuance of bid documents
November 22, 2001 (10:00 AM)	- Pre-bidding conference
November 29, 2001	
(9:15 - 10:00 AM)	- Submission of bid proposals
(10:15 AM)	- Opening of bid proposals

Pre-qualification forms and requirements can be secured from and submitted to PBAC Secretariat, ODAFA, 7th Floor, Matimyas Building, 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City. Bidding documents may likewise be secured from PBAC Secretariat and the same shall be issued to pre-qualified bidders upon payment of P2,000.00 non-refundable fee.

NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY/INFORMALITY OF THE BIDS RECEIVED AND TO ACCEPT ONLY SUCH BIDS WHICH ARE ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY.

(Sgd.) **MICHAEL ANGELO G. PADERANGA**
Deputy Administrator and
Vice-Chairman, PBAC

(PDI – Oct. 29 & 30, 2001)

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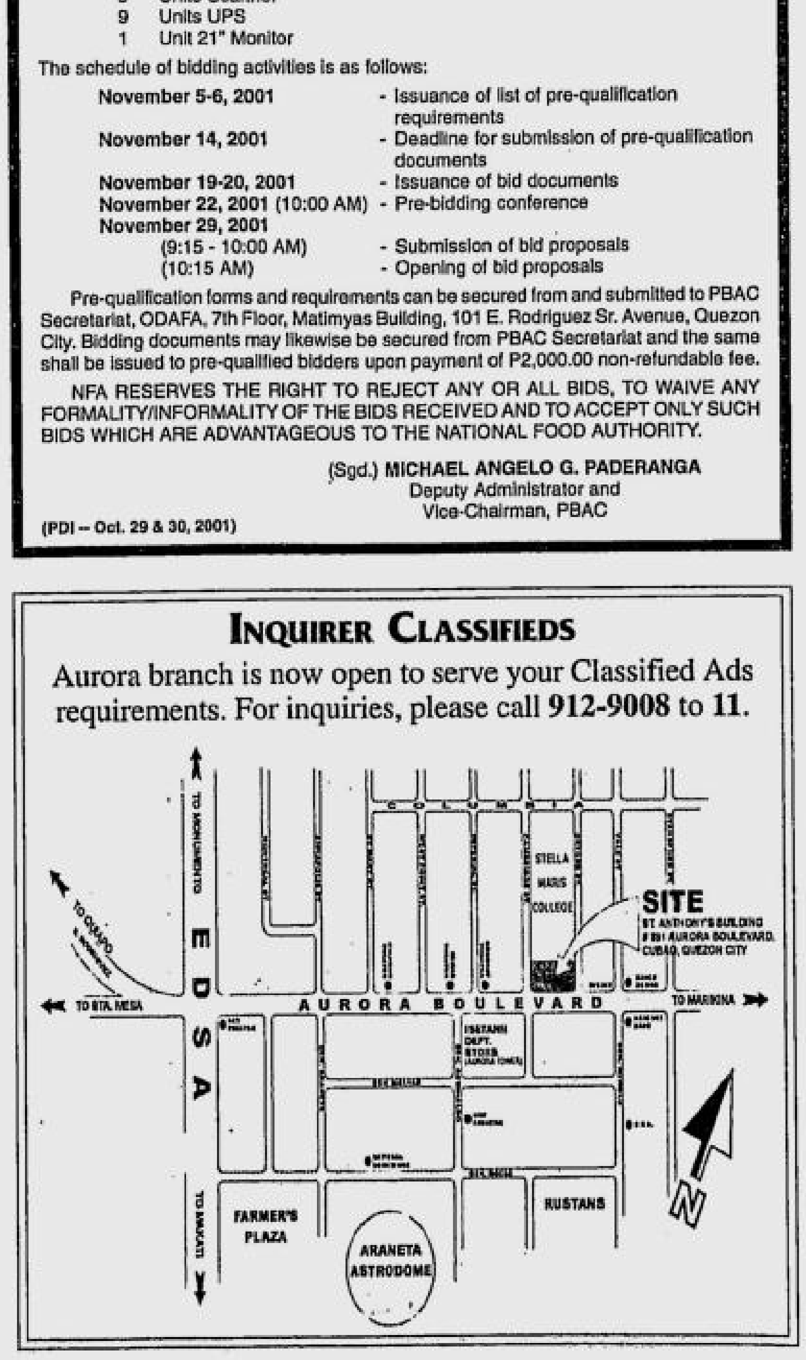

Poor countries may lose markets, says economist

QUITO, Ecuador—Developing nations could face limited access to world markets as the outlook for the United States and European economies weakens after the Sept. 11 attacks, this year's Nobel prize winning economist Joseph Stiglitz said Friday.

On a visit to Ecuador's capital, Stiglitz said that, despite the rhetoric of free trade, the United States tends toward protectionism during tough times, which could hit developing countries seeking to sell exports there.

"I share the pessimism about the global economic situation. It used to be said that, when the United States sneezes, Mexico catches a cold. Today when the United States catches a cold, the whole world catches a cold," he told reporters.

"When recessions occur in any country, including the United States, protectionism increases, and so that problems of access to markets may become exacerbated."

Latin America has shuddered at the economic prospects following the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States, which accelerated the downturn of the world's biggest economy.

Stiglitz, in Ecuador to run workshops at the country's Central Bank, said the United States has already attempted to restrict some imports, such as steel, and a decline in global commodity prices could also batter developing nations.

He said nations, such as Ecuador, that depend on remittances from emigrants to the United States will see these revenues fall as salaries decline and many people may even return to their native countries.

"These are the workers that inevitably suffer the most in the case of an economic downturn," he said.

Latin Americans send more than $20 billion a year to their native countries each year, according to a study by the Inter-American Development Bank.

Stiglitz said economies with floating exchange rates like Brazil can take advantage of this flexibility by allowing their currency to depreciate to make exports less expensive, an advantage countries like Ecuador and Argentina lack.

But the economist saw a potential silver lining in the clouds cast over countries with exchange rates pegged to the dollar, despite the weakening of the world economic outlook since the attacks and the military response in Afghanistan.

"The good news could be as economic slowdown progresses, there is a reasonable probability that the value of the dollar will decrease, confidence in the American economy has decreased, and of course that will enable countries that are tied to the dollar to have greater access to markets," he said.

Reuters

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US stocks seen bucking grim data

NEW YORK—Stocks should stretch their wings in the coming week as investors' mounting enthusiasm over an economic bounce next year outshines disappointment over dreary earnings and economic numbers.

"We have squeezed all we are going to squeeze out of this market on the way down," said Stanley Nabi, managing director at Credit Suisse Asset Management, which oversees about $110 billion. "Investors are looking beyond the valley. We know the rest of the year is going to be bad. We know the first part of next year is going to be bad. It's not going to come as a surprise anymore."

Stocks clawed higher this week in the face of an unnerving rise in anthrax cases, a steady drip of poor quarterly profits and data painting a bleak economic picture. The broad Standard & Poor's 500 index climbed about 3 percent to 1,105 during the week and surpassed levels posted before the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States.

"There is still skepticism about the lift and about the state of the economy, but analysts tend to look at what's in front of them," said A.C. Moore, chief investment strategist at Dunvegan & Associates.

Corporate earnings are showing the worst drop in profits in a decade—down almost 22 percent—but the flood of third-quarter reports will wind down next week. On the other hand, economic reports that show more signs of a looming recession will pile up on Wall Street.

The market may ward off grim data on jobs, consumer confidence, manufacturing and third-quarter growth next week, but some wonder how long the newfound resilience will last.

"The question is: 'Is the market going to have the fortitude to stick with that optimism through the hailstorm of bad numbers that we are going to get through the next quarter?'" said Jay Mueller, an economist and portfolio manager at Strong Capital Management, which oversees about $42 billion.

Reuters

GM, Isuzu in tie-up talks

TOKYO—General Motors Corp. and its Japanese truck-making partner Isuzu Motors Ltd. have started talks over joint manufacturing and sales of vehicles in China, an Isuzu spokesperson said Saturday.

"We have been talking about the possibility for some time. The Chinese auto market is sure to expand in the future," Isuzu spokesperson Hiromi Koyahata said.

"We have agreed to share sales operations, use of production facilities and other infrastructure in China to do more business there, more efficiently," he said.

Koyahata said details of the joint operations were still under discussion and no timeframe had been set to start the Chinese partnership.

The Nihon Keizai Shimbun said, however, the two firms would start the joint work in China as early as next spring.

"The tie-up will enable GM to exploit Isuzu's expertise in commercial automobiles to tap demand for such vehicles in China, which the US automaker sees as a key market in Asia," the business daily said Saturday.

It said that GM chief executive Richard Wagoner, who is visiting Japan for the Tokyo Motor Show, met with Isuzu president Yoshinori Ida and agreed to expand their partnership to the commercial vehicle business in China.

GM holds a 49-percent stake in Isuzu, but the two firms have not had any prior partnership in China. *AFP*

China not seen cutting rates

SHANGHAI—China is unlikely to trim interest rates for its currency, the yuan or renminbi, in 2001 or 2002, despite deflationary pressure in the economy, a senior central bank official was quoted on Saturday as saying.

"There is little room for a further cut in the renminbi interest rate," Dai Genyou, a senior official at the central People's Bank of China, was quoted by the official China Daily as saying.

Dai was also quoted as saying that maintaining a stable yuan interest rate would help stabilize expectations.

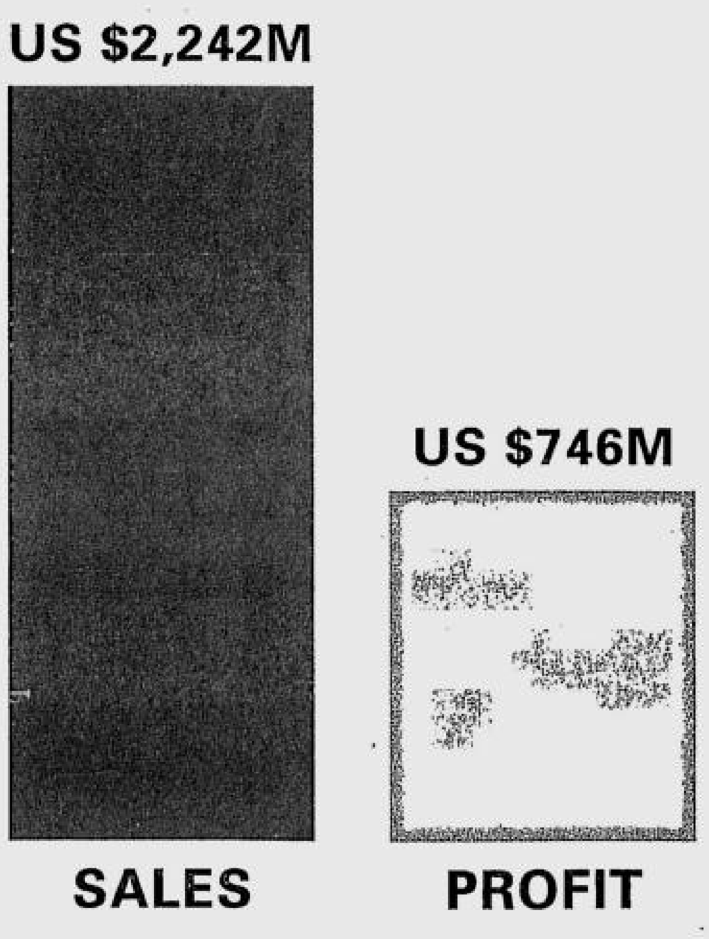
The central bank has cut interest rates seven times in the past four years and imposed income tax on new bank deposits in 1999, having slashed real interest on one-year deposits to about 1.8 percent, the paper said.

The central bank's monetary policy committee, headed by central bank governor Dai Xianglong, decided to keep interest rates "basically stable," the bank said on Tuesday in a statement after the committee's quarterly meeting.

Some economists have urged the bank to ease credit further to help spur the economy and ease upward pressure on the yuan, fueled partly by US interest rate cuts.

Reuters

Oracle quarterly profits reach record levels in TOUGH TIMES



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DATA CONTROLLER II, SG-08, Item No. NHI-NCCAC-DCTL2-2-1998. Completion of two years studies in college or high school graduate with relevant vocational/trade course; 1 year of relevant experience; 4 hours of relevant training; CS Subprofessional/Data Encoder/MC 11, s. 1996 - Cat. I/ First Level eligibility.

SENIOR HISTORY RESEARCHER, SG-18, Item No. NHI-NCCA-SRHR-2, 4 & 6-1998. Bachelor's degree relevant to the job (A.B. History, BSE major in History, Mass Communication, B.S. Chemistry, Engineering or other related courses); two years of relevant experience; 8 hours of relevant training; CS Professional/appropriate eligibility for 2nd level position.

CLERK III, SG-6, Item Nos. NHI-NCCAC-CK3-1-1998. Completion of two years studies in college. Career Service Subprofessional/First level eligibility.

UTILITY WORKER II, SG-3, Item Nos. NHI-NCCA-UTW2-14-1998. Must be able to read and write.

**Applicable only to those in government service.*

Republic of the Philippines
LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRY OFFICE
Province of Misamis Oriental
Cagayan de Oro City

In the Matter of the Change of Name in the Certificate of Live Birth of Maria Alma Apoliner Biloy — Petition Entry No. ___

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

The public is hereby notified that Maria Alma Apoliner Biloy has filed with this Office a petition for the change of first name from "Alma Villa" to "Maria Alma" in the Certificate of Live Birth of Maria Alma Apoliner Biloy.

At the expense of the petitioner, let a copy of this petition be published at least once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the City of Cagayan de Oro. Any person having knowledge and/or claiming interest or may be adversely affected by said petition may, within fifteen (15) calendar days, file his written opposition with this office.

(Sgd.) LEO G. WABE
City Civil Registrar

(PDI – Oct. 29 & Nov 5, 2001)

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Domestic Helper Beautician Int'l Cook •5623962•

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NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that OFFICIAL RECEIPT NO. 15200 of New PMC Construction and Industrial Supply Inc. is lost. Any and all transactions covered by the receipt is considered null & void and will not be honored by the company. (PDI - October 29, 2001)

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH
Oh, St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God. I place in you all my interest and desires. Oh, St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from your divine son all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. So that, having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of fathers. Oh, St. Joseph, I never weary contemplating you, and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press Him in my name and kiss His fine head for me and ask Him to return the Kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, Patron of departing souls - Pray for me.

This prayer was found in the fiftieth year of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. In 1505 it was sent from the Pope to Emperor Charles when he was going into battle. Whoever shall read this prayer or hear it or keep it about themselves, shall never die a sudden death, or be drowned, nor shall poison take effect on them; neither shall they fall into the hands of the enemy, or shall be burned in any fire or shall be overpowered in battle.

Say for nine mornings for anything you may desire. It has never been known to fail so be sure you really want what you ask.

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Sir Knight ELFREN MATIAS VIBAR, K.C.

October 29, 2000
of
Iriga City and Naga City

God's Garden Must be Beautiful

"God saw you getting tired,
When a cure was not to be.
So He wrapped His arms around you,
And whispered, "Come to Me."
You didn't deserved what you went through,
So He gave you rest.

God's garden must be beautiful,
He only picks the best.
And when I saw you sleeping,
So peaceful and free from pain,
I could not wish you back to suffer that again."

His beloved spouse **Ma. Luz G. Parpan-Vibar** and family humbly request our kind readers to offer joyful prayers for **Sir Knight ELFREN M. VIBAR** on the first anniversary of his "Journey to Eternal Life."

Our beloved Ina de Peñafrancia love you
And
Dios Mabalos!

"In thy presence, there is fullness of joy." — Psalm 16:11

CESAR VILLAPANDO MARASIGAN

Peacefully joined his Creator on October 26, 2001
at the age of 74.

His loving wife **Luz**; children **Gina**, **Boya**, **Benjie**, **Tyke**, **Renato**, **Joey**, **Jerry**, **Lando**, **Peter**, **Ricky**, **Rommel**, **Bing** and **Chamba**; children-in-law, grandchildren and other relatives request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Capilla del Señor, Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati.

The Mass will be held on October 30, 2001 at 7:00 p.m. at Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati.

Interment will be on the afternoon of October 31, 2001 at the Marasigan Memorial Park, San Juan, Batangas.

"I
am
the
resurrection
and
the
life.
He
who
believes in
Me
will
live,
even
though
he
dies;
and
whoever
believes
in
Me
will
never
die."
John 11:25-26

Atty. Jose Ma. B. Bernarte

MNSA-Class 15
of Masantol and Lubao, Pampanga

Peacefully joined his Creator at the age of 72.

His bereaved wife **Lulu David-Bernarte**; children **Heidi Corazon** and **John Dyson, Nina Lucia** and **Rex Tomen, Reni Lourdes, John Noel** and **Irene Lourdes**; grandchildren **Ma. Glorian** and **Rex Cesar Joseph Tomen**; brother **Jesus Maria** and **Belen Magadia**; brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for his eternal repose.

His remains lie in state at the San Nicolas 1st Chapel, Lubao, Pampanga.

Interment will be on Wednesday, October 31, 2001 at the Lubao Memorial Park after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

Our Dear Papa

BERNARDINO CADAOAS CABADING

Died in the Grace of our Lord on October 26, 2001
at the age of 73.

Together with our loving Mama **Lourdes**; we, his children **Marilou & Edgar**, and **Efren**; grandchildren **Erwin Gabriel** and **Daphne Mae**; brothers **Tony** and **Delfin** and other relatives request you to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at his residence, 34 T. Alonzo St., Project 4, Quezon City.

Interment schedule is tentatively set on October 30, 2001.

RODOLFO J. PINAWIN

Sept. 24, 1936 — Oct. 28, 2001

His wife **Claire**; children **Marizza-Romy, Mildred-Arthur, Vernette-Jesse, Jun-Vyl, Non-Dulce,** and **Hazel**; grandchildren **Mike, JayR, Claire, Abby, Gello, Jaja, Nikki, Jomar, Jericko, Justin, Arpee, Andrea, Patrick**; parents, brothers, sisters, relatives and friends request the pious readers to say your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

The body lies in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapel, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City on October 30, 2001 at 3:00 PM.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

EDGARDO "BONG" SARROL

who joined his Creator on October 9, 2001

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who offered prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy, attended the funeral rites, and who, in countless ways, condoled with and comforted us in our hour of bereavement.

EDUARDO S. REYES

Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord on October 27, 2001 at the age of 92.

His remains lie in state at Lot 26, Block 17, San Jose Street, Guadnoville Subdivision, North Caloocan City.

Cremation will be on Tuesday, October 30, 2001, 10:00 a.m. at La Funeraria Paz after the Requiem Mass.

In Loving Memory
on the **FOURTH DEATH ANNIVERSARY** of

ASUNCION "SONING" HOJAS ESCAÑO

of Cagayan de Oro City

(Beloved wife of the late **ROQUE "TETE" VAÑO ESCAÑO** and Foundress and First Chairperson of the Board Ria Hojas Escaño Foundation, Inc.)

who died in the Grace of our Lord on October 29, 1997

Holy Masses will be offered today, Monday, October 29, 2001 at the following:

Greenhills Memorial Park, Bulua .... 4:00 PM
San Vicente Ferrer Parish, Cugman .... 6:00 AM
San Isidro Labrador Parish, Gusa .... 6:00 AM
Jesus Nazareno Parish, Recto Avenue .... 5:30 PM
Sacred Heart Parish, RER Drive .... 5:30 PM
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, Carmen .... 6:00 AM
St. Augustine Cathedral, cdo .... 5:30 PM
San Antonio Parish, Nazareth .... 6:00 AM
Santo Niño Parish, Cogon .... 6:00 AM
Immaculate Conception Parish, Bulua .... 6:00 AM
Carmelite Monastery Chapel, Camaman-an .... 6:00 AM
Carmelite Monastery Chapel, Malaybalay Buk. .... 6:30 AM

The RIA (**ROQUE, ISIDRO** and **ASUNCION**) Hojas Escaño Foundation Inc. Board of Trustees, Officers and Staff, grandson **FRANZ JOSEF**, relatives and friends, request the pious readers to remember **ASUNCION** in their prayers.

The children, Willy and Sasa Castillo, Manny and Irene Isaac, Mandy and Myrna Mendoza, Francis and Embeth Macaraig; grandchildren Lito, Arra, Justine and Mikee Guino, Jay-Jay and Adonna Jimenez, Essa and Jecca Castillo, Marco and Niña Isaac, Niqui and Ninna Mendoza and Sam Macaraig

Request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of

Marciano Regulto Macaraig

who passed away on October 27, 2001.

His remains lie in state at the Macaraig residence in Maraykit, San Juan, Batangas. He will be laid to rest at the San Juan Catholic Cemetery on Tuesday afternoon, October 30, 2001.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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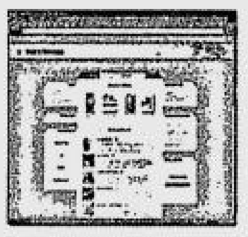

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V. Luna Road, Quezon City

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The AFP Medical Center invites bidders to Pre-qualify and to bid for the following:

a. Janitorial Services
b. Laundry Services

Pre-bid conference will be held on 9:00 a.m. 06 November 2001 at the AFPMC Conference Room, AFP Medical Center, V. Luna Road, Quezon City. Failure to attend the Pre-bid conference on the specified time and date automatically disqualifies any bidder to participate in the bidding.

The AFP Medical Center reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any formality, and make an award to the bidder whose bid is most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **EDGARDO D. BERNARDO**
Colonel MC (GSC)
Chairman, BNAC

(PDI – Oct. 28, 29 & 30, 2001)

Greenwich programs go for gold

WHEN the Greenwich pizza and pasta outlets began to undergo a total makeover nearly a year ago, the company didn't overlook the most important aspect of success in any service-oriented business: the point-of-sale staff.

It is almost as though the designer had intended the fresh and crisp new colors of the Greenwich outlets to complement the clean, friendly and smiling faces behind the counter.

The quality of service and attitude which has been observed and commended by customers is a result of a continuous training and retraining program. Greenwich training manager Lani Macalinao explains, "to be effective, one should not only have the know-how, but should also have the innate desire to do it. That is why when we train our store team members we make a point not just to provide them with the skills needed to effectively handle customers, but we also try to create the correct mindset in providing customer care. The skills will ensure that our customers will get the very best both in products and services, while the mindset will instill in them that genuine passion to serve. When both of these are present, then we are assured that we can provide that Greenwich customer experience—delicious, piping hot food served fast in a warm, friendly and caring atmosphere.''

When their heart is in it, customers experience the results," Greenwich training consultant Rodgie Samson Duerme shares her service excellence barometer reading on the performance of Greenwich store teams.

"We have a two-level program. One propagates leadership in the managerial rank. Because managers play role models, their leadership skills are sharpened through role-playing modules, management seminars and workshops. The crewmembers' program is the other level. Production and frontliners receive intensive technical skills training but just as important is that we help them become leaders in their own right because we consider them managers of the future. Greenwich adheres to an in-house succession plan which is a great incentive for our crew to excel. Again, I say that if they consistently put their heart into their work, it is not difficult for them to reach what we call the "Gold Performance," explains Duerme.

Each team member, from the manager down to crew member, acknowledge that diligence in perfecting their acquired skills and reinforcing that with the sincere desire to win customer satisfaction brings rewards.

To measure level of performance, customer feedback has been key. Greenwich management teams have been extremely impressed with the amount of and quality of customer feedback they receive through letters, text messages or personal calls. Some customers have gone out of their way to leave notes written on a Greenwich napkin or a bus ticket, and even to approach a store manager with commendation for specific crewmembers or the store in general.

Human resources department manager Ting Espina further explains that, to begin with, a set of criteria is used as basis for hiring store team members. This criteria complies with the company's direction of creating a pool of customer-focused employees.

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION
Makati City

APOLONIO CALIMQUIM,
representative of the heirs of the
late RICARDO CALIMLIM,
Petitioner,

- versus - SSC CASE NO. 5-14676-97

ESQUIRE BARBERSHOP,
represented by RAYMUNDO
ABALOS and EVELYN ATUAN,
Respondents,

SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM,
Intervenor.

x ------------------------------------ x

NOTICE OF RESOLUTION

TO: RAYMUNDO ABALOS
GREETINGS:

Notice is hereby given that on the 3rd day of October 2001, a **RESOLUTION**, consisting of 10 pages, was promulgated in the above-mentioned case, the dispositive portion of which reads as follows:

"**WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED**, the petition is hereby dismissed for insufficiency of evidence.

SO ORDERED."

SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION

(PDI – Oct. 29, 2001)

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

NOTICE OF DISPOSITION
Tenth Offering

The National Housing Authority (NHA) is accepting bids for the sale of eighty-nine (89) residential lots in Monterrazas Village, Bgy. Tuding, Itogon, Benguet with areas ranging from 283 to 901 square meters and base prices ranging from P350.00 to P4,500.00 per square meter under credit terms.

Interested parties may secure the bid documents for a non-refundable fee of P200.00 from the NHA Project Office located at the D'Castellamonte Building, #12 Otek Street, Baguio City.

SCHEDULE: The submission of pre-qualification requirements will be received during office hours from **29 October 2001** to **27 November 2001.** A pre-bid conference will be held on **22 November 2001** at 2:00 PM. Sealed offers will be received from 8:00 AM to 12:00 Noon of **28 November 2001** which will be opened at 2:00 PM of the same day. All transactions will be held/entertained at the NHA Baguio Project Office.

The NHA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, call off this tender prior to bid acceptance and call for new tender under amended rules, as may be deemed advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **EDGARDO D. PAMINTUAN**
General Manager

(PDI – Oct. 29 & 31, 2001)

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Amando Doronila of the Philippine Daily Inquirer joined the British Embassy during the Business and Peace Project launch held recently at the Ambassador's residence in Makati. Shown is Doronila (right) with British Embassy staff, outgoing press officer Ma'an Gabriel (middle) and incoming press officer Shiela Teodoro.

Lockheed wins biggest warplane contract

WASHINGTON—Lockheed Martin snatched the richest military contract ever Friday, beating a rival bid from Boeing to develop the Joint Strike Fighter warplane in a program potentially worth $400 billion.

"The Lockheed Martin team is the winner of the Joint Strike Fighter program on the best value basis," US Air Force Secretary James Roche announced.

Lockheed Martin was selected over Boeing on the basis of assessed strengths, weaknesses and degrees of risk in its bid, Roche said. The decision was taken together with Britain, he added.

The contract, initially worth about $18.98 billion, could grow to more than $200 billion, said US Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics Edward "Pete" Aldridge.

Analysts said the value could rise to $400 billion when foreign sales were included over future decades.

"This is a wonderful day for Lockheed Martin, one day that will set a course for the next 30 to 40 years," company chief executive and chairman Vance Coffman told employees at a celebration party.

At the main Lockheed Martin plant in Fort Worth, Texas, employees stood and erupted in applause when the decision was announced.

Boeing chief executive Phil Condit said the decision would cut its income in 2002.

"It will reduce our revenues by an estimated $1 billion from $56 billion to $55 billion," he said.

Pratt and Whitney won a contract to supply JSF119 engines, a modified version of the engine that powers the air force's new F-22 Raptor, worth $4 billion initially.

Aldridge said the new fighter jet—designed to play multiple roles based on the same core body—would be "the world's premier strike platform" from 2008 to the end of 2040.

Three versions of the Lockheed Martin fighter will be produced for the Navy, Air Force and the Marines, with special fittings for each branch. The British navy and air force also are participating in the program.

The single-engine planes with a radar-evading design—which will require seven or eight years to develop and refine, followed by a 30-year production phase starting in 2013—will replace nearly all fighter jets currently in use: the F-16, the A-10 attack jet, the AV-8 Harriers used by the Marines and eventually the F-18. *AFP*

Opec puts new production cut on agenda of Nov. meet

NICOSIA—A proposal to cut output by a further 750,000 to one million barrels per day (bpd) will be on the agenda of a Nov. 14 meeting of the Opec East Economic Survey (MEES) reported Saturday.

"The prospect of another Opec production cut has . . . grown stronger," the industry newsletter said.

MEES said no decision was expected to be taken ahead of the ministerial gathering in Vienna, as Opec heads of state continue consultations about market stability.

The Nicosia-based weekly noted "growing evidence that Opec members are beginning to abide by the quotas agreement which came into effect from Sept. 1," when the cartel slashed production by one million bpd.

Preliminary MEES estimates indicated that over-production of 1.1 million bpd last month will be reduced by about 600,000 bpd during October.

"MEES has received indications that Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Algeria and Nigeria have reduced output to near-quota levels and other producers are understood to be doing the same.

"At the November meeting, it is understood that a proposal to cut Opec output by a further 750,000-one million bpd will be on the agenda," it said.

"The big question is whether non-Opec producers will contribute to the cuts, now and next year, when world economic growth is expected to remain sluggish."

On Monday, a meeting is to be held between experts from non-Opec and Opec countries at Opec headquarters in Vienna with the price of oil expected to dominate the agenda.

Non-Opec countries attending expect to have their arms twisted to take part in joint action with the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Oil prices have fallen by around 20 percent since the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States.

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez warned Friday of a potential world energy crisis due to excess oil production of one million to 1.5 million bpd.

Like several other non-Opec oil producers, particularly Russia and Norway, Mexico has reacted cautiously to calls for price-boosting production cuts. *AFP*

US consumers more upbeat

NEW YORK—US consumer sentiment improved slightly in October as Americans shrugged off gloom from mounting job layoffs, but new home sales last month slowed to their most sluggish pace in a year, highlighting the fragility of the US economy.

While the two Friday reports added to evidence that the Sept. 11 attacks knocked some steam out of an already weakened economy, some analysts said conditions had not deteriorated as much as feared.

"The data we saw this week suggest that the consumer is holding in better than businesses," said Astrid Adolfson, economist at MCM Moneywatch in New York. "That supports the economy, and suggests a recession could be shallower than many people fear."

The University of Michigan's closely watched sentiment barometer rose to 82.7 in October from 81.8 last month, matching analysts' forecasts.

But economists warned that while the index appeared to have stabilized, sentiment hovered only slightly above its lowest level in nearly eight years struck in September after the attacks on New York and the Pentagon.

The Commerce Department said new home sales dropped 1.4 percent in September to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 864,000 from a downwardly revised 876,000 in August, beating expectations for a 856,000 pace. But sales slowed 4.2 percent from year-ago levels.

The drop followed Thursday news from the National Association of Realtors showing existing home sales fell more than 11 percent in September despite a fall in mortgage rates after nine Federal Reserve interest rate cuts this year.

"It is a sign that home buyers are more hesitant about purchasing a new or existing home," said Stuart Hoffman, chief economist at PNC Financial Services Group, in Pittsburgh.

Anxieties about personal and financial security as concerns over bioterrorism rise may have begun to outweigh the appeal of lower mortgage rates and a drop in the median home price compared to August and year-ago levels, economists said.

"It's a tug-of-war between affordability and job security," said Hoffman.

Stock investors, focusing on a barrage of corporate earnings releases, mostly shrugged off the reports. US Treasury yields and the dollar were also little changed on the data.

The Dow Jones industrial average finished 82.27 points, or 0.87 percent, higher at 9,545.17, while the technology-weighted Nasdaq Composite index fell 6.51 points, or 0.37 percent, to 1,768.96.

Consumer sentiment fragile

Michigan's consumer sentiment index deteriorated in the last two weeks from the mid-month reading of 83.4, in line with weekly surveys, showing there was a risk that consumer optimism could again erode should fears of bioterrorism spread, economists said. *Reuters*

Kraft considers 1,000 job cuts

CHICAGO—No. 1 North American food maker Kraft Foods Inc. on Friday announced plans to cut 1,000 US employees, or 0.8 percent of its worldwide staff, through a voluntary retirement program, as it continues to seek savings after the buyout of Oreo cookie maker Nabisco.

Kraft, the maker of Philadelphia cream cheese, Oscar Mayer meats and Kraft cheeses, said a plan offered to some 1,400 salaried employees will result in a pretax charge of about $160 million in the first quarter of fiscal 2002 and savings of $80 million annually. Kraft employs about 117,000 people worldwide.

The write-down is part of previously announced charges of $200 million to $300 million for plant closings and business reconfigurations over the next two years, Kraft said. The Northfield, Illinois-based company purchased Nabisco, the largest US cookie and cracker maker, late last year.

"The synergies that we are getting as we bring Nabisco and Kraft together are making it possible for us to operate with a smaller staff," company spokesperson Michael Mudd told Reuters.

No specific group of workers will be targeted under the plan, but Mudd said more workers at Kraft rather than Nabisco operations are eligible for early retirement.

The bulk of Kraft's salaried US employees work in its Northfield and Glenview, Illinois headquarter offices outside Chicago; in Madison, Wisconsin; Westchester County, New York; and Morris County, New Jersey, he said.

In January 1999, the last time Kraft had a voluntary staff reduction, more than 70 percent of its eligible staff opted for the program, Mudd added, noting that no involuntary cuts would occur if the new programs fall short of the 1,000-worker level.

Kraft previously said it expects savings from the Nabisco transaction to grow to $600 million per year by 2004. Less than half of the $80 million booked for the voluntary retirement program will go toward that effort, Mudd said.

Shares of Kraft, which went public in June, fell 66 cents, or 1.89 percent, to $34.24 at mid-afternoon on the New York Stock Exchange. *Reuters*

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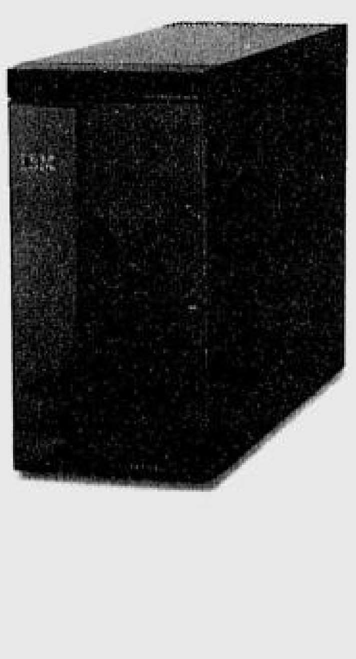

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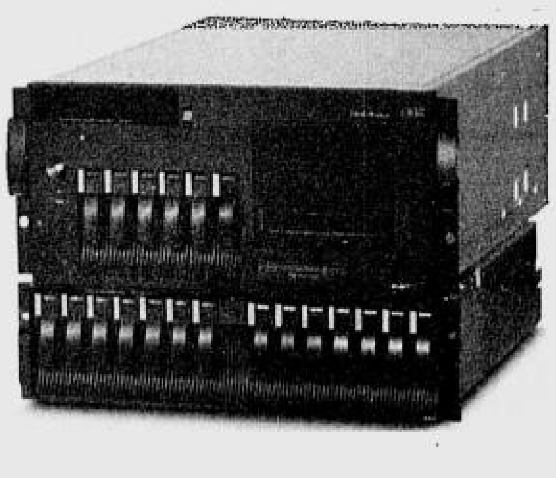

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LUNTIANG PILIPINAS

3RD ANNIVERSARY

LARRY MARIANO, Account Manager
SPROJECTS@INQUIRER.COM.PH
ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

MESSAGES

IT IS MY pleasure to greet the men and women of Luntiang Pilipinas Foundation, Inc. as they celebrate their Third Year Foundation Anniversary.

The success of any government undertaking, particularly in the field of environmental protection, is better ensured with the cooperation of all sectors of society. Sustainable development cannot succeed without the cooperation of individuals and institutions endowed with useful resources and know-how that can be shared in preserving ecological balance.

I am thus glad that Luntiang Pilipinas has persevered in its mission and vision particularly that of developing forest parks through urban forestry, promoting the environmental awareness as well as institutionalization and maintenance of multi-stakeholder cooperation in sustainable development for the past three years. Your accomplishment of planting more than a million trees, among others, is a concrete manifestation of your commitment as responsible members of our society. May your example be emulated all around the country to ensure that our children will continue to enjoy a pristine environment conducive to the realization of their full potential.

Again, happy anniversary. May you continue to reap success in all your endeavors and remain committed to your worthy cause!

Mabuhay kayong lahat.

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

IT IS WITH great pride and joy that I am extending my warmest greetings to the Luntiang Pilipinas Foundation, Inc. on the special occasion of our Third Anniversary.

As an ecological warrior, I have always endeavored for the protection and preservation of our environment. While there are multitude ways of pursuing this mission, I have considered tree-planting in urban areas as the most practical and responsive step to the calls of our times. My vision for a nation filled with green, beautiful trees conceived Luntiang Pilipinas. From its humble beginnings three years ago, our dream is now turning into a reality.

We have developed hundreds of forest parks throughout our urban areas with the help of our partners from various government units, non-governmental organizations, and private corporations. Our North and South Expressway Greenbelt Project of a million trees is a resounding success. Luntiang Pilipinas has also successfully tapped the energies of our youth in its campaign through the Campus Forest Parks and the Bayer Search for Young Environmental Envoys. Realizing that we can still expand our horizons, we are now aiming to green the highways of congested Manila through our Traffic Islands Forest Parks project.

All of the efforts of Luntiang Pilipinas is directed towards one goal: to make our nation a cleaner, better and greener home through heightening the Filipinos' concern and care for the environment. It is my hope and our commitment to this goal that pushes Luntiang Pilipinas to do more and better for our country.

To Luntiang Pilipinas and to all who helped us plant trees and realize our vision, let us continue doing our share in saving the environment. *Mabuhay tayong lahat!*

LOREN LEGARDA-LEVISTE
Senate Majority Leader
Founder and Honorary Chair,
Luntiang Pilipinas Foundation, Inc.

THE SUCCESS of the Luntiang Pilipinas Foundation, Inc. in your massive tree-planting initiatives in the urban areas has clearly manifested how public-private partnerships bring out the best in every Filipino.

Through your urban forestry program, forest parks have become visible throughout the country. The forest is a watershed, a carbon sink, and a sanctuary for our rich biodiversity, hence the need to protect this resource as it serves as an antidote to global warming or the rise of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide that trees absorb in the process.

I am glad that the Luntiang Pilipinas has been an active partner of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in your three years of existence.

I salute the leadership of Senator Loren Legarda-Leviste for embarking on this regreening-our-forest campaign and I hope we work hand in hand in sharing the same environmental advocacy.

HEHERSON T. ALVAREZ
Secretary
Department of Environment
and Natural Resources

WITH much pride and pleasure, I extend my warm salutations to the men and women behind the Luntiang Pilipinas Foundation, Inc. as you mark your third foundation anniversary.

No endeavor could be more timely than your Luntiang Pilipinas project which addresses the urgent need for the replenishment of our dwindling greenery and forest cover, so vital to the preservation of the environment and the continued sustenance of life on earth. The million trees that your foundation has planted and will continue to plant will be a most important legacy to our children and generations of Filipinos yet to come—a concrete and lasting testimony to the nobility of your concern for the future of our planet and the human race.

I reaffirm my continuing support to your worthwhile undertakings and wish you continued success.

Congratulations and *mabuhay*!

BENJAMIN S. ABALOS
Chairman
Metropolitan Manila Development Authority

LUNTIANG Pilipinas has firmly set its roots into the multi-layered environmental soil. And has successfully spread out its leafy branches to encourage the participation of a growing number of environmental advocates.

Luntiang Pilipinas is aimed at raising the environmental consciousness of every Filipino and is committed in making our nation an ecologically healthy place by establishing forest parks throughout the country's urban areas. Luntiang Pilipinas has definitely made great progress towards this goal with the success of each of its undertakings. The help of the media, the sponsorship of business partners, the participation of government agencies and nongovernment organizations, and the volunteerism of concerned private citizens largely brought about this success. We are proud to have worked with all these people in planting trees throughout the nation.

With the Philippine Agenda 21 as the main guiding framework, Luntiang Pilipinas hopes to achieve distinct contribution towards a new generation of environmental and ecological reforms involving community-based approaches, local capacity building, and partnerships with the private sector. The overriding concerns are on on-the-ground implementation, greater stress on social dimensions of environmental management, and institutionalization of interventions to further integrate environment in national policy and strategies.

We pray for more anniversaries to come as each year signifies hundreds of trees planted towards a greener Philippines.

ANGELITO M. VILLANUEVA, MA, MNSA
Executive Director
Luntiang Pilipinas Foundation, Inc.

Under the shade of a million urban trees

Luntiang Pilipinas, a successful tree-planting project by Senator Loren Legarda-Leviste, has adorned our thoroughfares, parks, schools, and plazas with beautiful forest parks

BY RAQUEL P. GOMEZ

YOU may not be aware of it, but you may now be traversing a stretch of road shaded by acacia trees planted by Senator Loren Legarda-Leviste herself—through a tree planting program she initiated three years ago, the Luntiang Pilipinas.

Through Luntiang Pilipinas and help from the private companies and some government agencies, more than a million trees have been planted in the different areas of Metro Manila and other parts of the country. A nationwide tree-planting program, Luntiang Pilipinas aims to build 1,500 forest parks in the urban areas—in municipal plazas, in school grounds, roadsides and in every available space in the city.

Six hundred thousand trees that include narra, acacia, mahogany, eucalyptus and gemelinas are now planted in the 52 loops of the 127-kilometer stretch of the North and South Luzon Expressway. Called "greenbelts," these mini forest parks adorn the exit and entry points of towns that start from Calamba, Laguna up to Mabalacat, Pampanga.

Legarda says Luntiang Pilipinas, which is an offshoot of the first bill the senator filed in 1998 (the Greening Act of 1998), "seeks to generate awareness and heighten the level of consciousness of people towards the values of trees."

The senator, who has received the "Global 500 Roll of Honour for Environmental Achievement Award" from the United Nations Environmental Program, personally planted trees in Luneta Park, in almost all loops along the North and South Expressway, and in every town where she has opened a tree-planting activity.

An environmentalist, the senator says "in her lifetime" she has already planted more than a million trees. Proof of her love of trees is watercolor paint-

SEN. LEGARDA at the Eco-Camp of the Bayer Young Environmental Envoys at SBMA.

UNDER/ B15

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What Drives You CALTEX

Bayer joins Luntiang Pilipinas in the greening of the Philippines.

Bayer, together with Luntiang Pilipinas, launched The Bayer Young Environmental Envoy Program in the Philippines. The winning young envoys are shown above during their recent trip to Germany.

Bayer

Under the shade of a million urban trees

(From page B14)

ings of greens and trees the senator has done when she was a teenager that now hang in her office. She also brings her children to tree planting activities. She has recently brought them to the area in Luneta Park where she first planted the trees—which are fully grown now—that launched Luntiang Pilipinas.

So far she admits her children have "imbibed" an environmentalist and conservationist attitude. "My son Lanz wrote about global warming in his school's paper. Because I talked about tree planting at home, they imbibed it. They draw trees and say no to illegal logging."

Luntiang Pilipinas doesn't stop with the planting of the trees. "The most important is the nurturing and caring of the trees in the next three years," says Legarda, who likens the caring of trees to caring of children since the mortality rate of newly planted trees is high. "That's why we need partners."

Partners of Luntiang Pilipinas include corporations and companies that set aside a portion of their funds for environmental concerns. Rustan's sponsored the forest park in Calamba, Cabuyao and Malolos exit loops. Metrobank Foundation, Coca-Cola Philippines, Petron Corp., Shell, Caltex, Japan Gas Corp., Toyota Motor Philippines, Bayer, Procter and Gamble, Fil Systems, S&R Price; JGC Philippines, Plastiner Industrial Corp. and Max Restaurant have funded and maintained mini forests near the places where their businesses operate.

Other sponsors of Luntiang Pilipinas include AMWSLAI, Central Country Estate, Inc., Earth and Style Development Corporation, Manila North Tollways Corporation, S&R Price Club, San Miguel Corp., Siemens, SGV Foundation, Inc., New Zealand Embassy, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, and Philippine National Construction Corp.

Luntiang Pilipinas has created a chain reaction among the NGOs, schools, as well as local and provincial governments who have adopted the project in their own areas. "It's just a simple project and so many people wanted to come in," says the glad senator about the inspiration the project has brought upon to others. "When an idea germinates or snowballs, I think it's something good."

Funding from the program, says the senator, comes from corporate sponsorships. Luntiang Pilipinas has just been recently registered as a foundation and is currently focused on planting more trees in the national highways and the islands of major thoroughfares such as in Beundia Avenue in Makati.

It has also conducted a search for young environmental envoys, where seven students were made to go to Germany for a week-long, all-expense paid environmental tour. It has also signed an agreement with the Board of Investments and the Philippine Export Zone Authority that allows for the setting up of forest parks in the places of business of companies regulated by these agencies.

For the North and South Expressway project, Luntiang Pilipinas aims to reach the million trees mark by the end of the year. Legarda says Luntiang Pilipinas, which started as a "vision," is already becoming a reality.

"It gives me a feeling of serenity and calm whenever I see the trees I planted," says Legarda of her love affair with trees. "I have a vision: *isang luntiang Pilipinas, isang milyong puno ang naghihintay arugain at alagaan* (a green Philippines and a million trees that wait to be nurtured)."

LEGARDA receives the Global 500 Roll of Honor for environmental achievement award from UNEP in Turin, Italy.

More than 1 million trees have been planted in approximately 100 hectares across the country, visible in 33 provinces, 28 cities, and 84 municipalities, made possible through the assistance of over 240 institutional partners including 28 corporate donors and benefactors, 22 national government agencies, 21 nongovernmental agencies, 21 nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), 22 educational institutions, 2 international/foreign entities and countless individuals backed up by a well-planned education, information, and communication (EIC) campaign with the primary aim of raising the level of consciousness of Filipinos to the value of trees.

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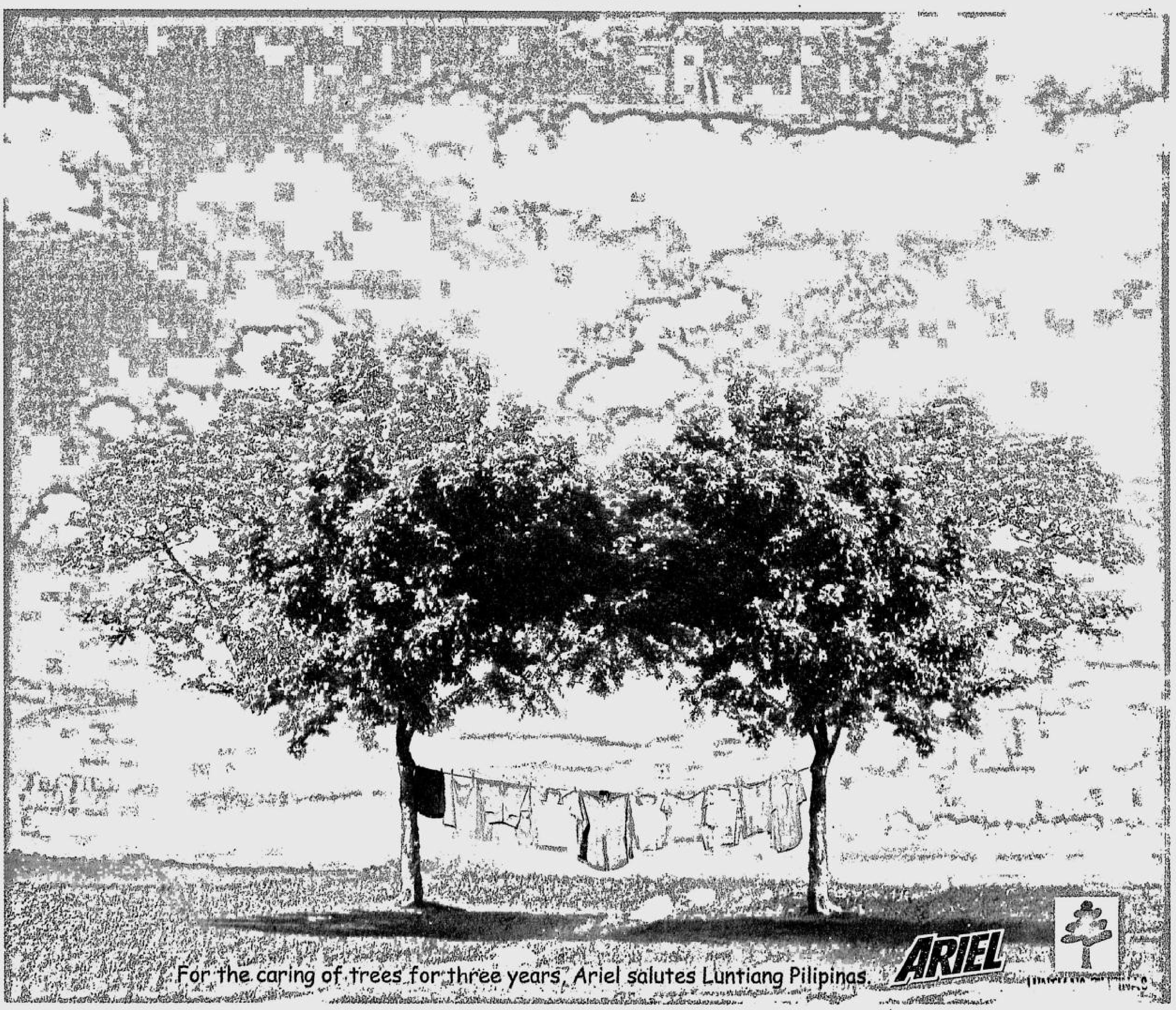

For the caring of trees for three years, Ariel salutes Luntiang Pilipinas.

ARIEL

ABS-CBN considering 'subtle ads'

By Doris C. Dumlao

ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. is studying the possibility of using "program placements" to shore up its revenues in view of an advertising slump.

Program placements, or subtle advertising, means indirectly promoting a product or a service by using a company's products bearing its logo, trademark or brand name as props in a program—a bottle of San Miguel Corp. in a TV sitcom, for instance.

In an interview, company investor relations officer Oliver Calma told the INQUIRER that program placements was "an option we're looking at every year."

The country's No. 1 broadcasting firm is studying how viable these can be and is looking to television companies in the United States for guidance, Calma said.

"It's a matter of raising revenues without necessarily sacrificing the quality of our programs," he said.

Calma said ABS-CBN would decided on whether to use program placements next month.

Using program placements to shore up revenues is not new to the broadcasting world, Calma said.

He said when The Coca-Cola Co. bought a stake in Columbia Pictures, the Coke logo would regularly appear in certain shows.

Analysts have warned that the weak domestic economy, aggravated by a global recession induced by the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, will weigh heavily on advertising spending in the next two years. This, in turn, will hit the bottom line of media companies like ABS-CBN.

Calma said ABS-CBN was also cautiously approaching plans to raise its advertising rates if only to compensate for flat advertising minutes.

The company is looking at a lower rate increase of around 10 percent next year as against the usual 15-percent annual hike, he said.

Apart from its own slow financial take, ABS-CBN has also seen a decline in the revenues of its UHF subsidiary, Studio 23, as advertisers have found it more beneficial to focus on the broader audience of VHF station Channel 2.

Channel 2 is expected to continue seeing a 10-percent growth in revenues this year, while Studio 23 is expected to post a 20-percent slowdown.

Last week, ABS-CBN announced that it was holding talks for a possible investment in an Indonesian television company as part of its strategy to generate more revenues by exporting certain TV programs to markets abroad.

The company also had to defer earlier the issuance of P3 billion in debt papers for its infrastructure needs.

Half of the issuance was supposed to be comprised of short-term IOUs while the rest would have been bonds to be sold to qualified holders, usually institutional investors.

Local cement firms lost opportunity to get tariff shield

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE LOCAL cement industry lost an opportunity to get tariff protection from cheap imports through executive fiat when it failed to file a petition with the government when Congress was in recess, Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II said.

Roxas said the Philippine Cement Manufacturers Corp. could have ended its struggle to repel cement imports efforts had it opted to ask Malacañang to issue an executive order that would curb the entry of cheap cement imports, especially those coming from Taiwan.

He said he was surprised why the group did not take this alternative route, considering its petition with the Department of Trade and Industry for punitive duties and quota limits on cement imports under the Safeguard Measures Act had been thwarted by legal blockades set up by the country's cement importers.

The Valenzuela Regional Trial Court earlier barred the trade department from proceeding with its review of Philcemcor's case against cement importers after it ruled that the Safeguard law was unconstitutional.

Philcemcor, represented by the Carpio & Villaraza law office, filed a petition with the Court of Appeals seeking to bar Valenzuela Judge Floro Alejo from implementing his "patently null and void" ruling and conducting further hearings on the case filed by cement traders.

The court's decision was criticized not only by cement manufacturers but other local industries because it deprived them of their best defense against imports.

The Federation of Philippine Industries said the ruling could put into question the constitutionality of the Anti-Dumping Law and Countervailing Law, which also allowed Cabinet members to act on behalf of the President.

The Valenzuela court ruled that it was unconstitutional for Cabinet secretaries to usurp the power of taxation reserved only for the President.

Under the Safeguard law, Congress authorized the trade and agriculture secretaries to impose punitive tariffs or quotas to prevent imports from flooding the market and drown local industries.

Cement traders claimed that Philcemcor's petition before the trade department had become moot and academic, as imports had shrunk considerably especially after Taiwan Cement Corp., the main target of the petition, stopped its sales to the country and handed over control of its silo to Apo Cement Corp. of Cemex SA.

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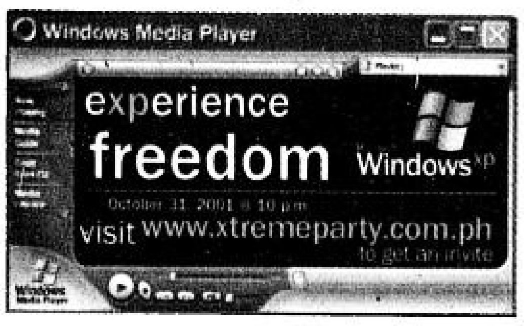

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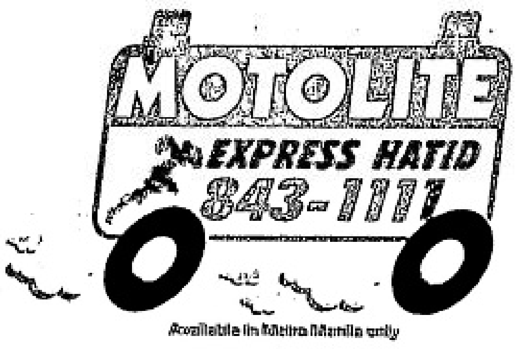

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FROM BATTLEFIELDS TO BOARDROOMS

Intelligence operations shift

GUETA: Information is king

BY TINA ARCEO-DUMLAO

A MEDIUM-SIZED local bank once suffered heavy losses because of a spate of bank withdrawals. Big clients were leaving because they were spooked by rumors that the bank was not stable, even if their financial papers showed that the bank was as healthy as a bank should be.

An investigation later showed that one of the bank's high-ranking managers stole the client database and sold it to a rival bank. This enabled the rival bank to orchestrate a campaign to discredit the bank and hopefully get the big clients.

There are also cases filed in the United States involving software developers of information technology companies that sold company secrets to rivals for a handsome fee. There were even cases of companies being forced to declare bankruptcy because their competition beat them to the draw, using their own research and hard work.

Josef Gueta, president of Business Profiles Inc., says these cases illustrate that the corporate world is filled with security risks, and it is not only risk to assets, but more importantly to information.

Loss of crucial information can certainly break a company, he stresses.

Modern day espionage

The growing importance of handling sensitive business information has led to the growth of a new business that is populated by former military officers and intelligence experts.

Gueta, for instance, is a former major of the counter-terrorism unit of the Israeli police department. Colleagues in the industry include a former officer of the Central Intelligence Agency and elite military personnel of military organizations all over the world.

"It all started at the end of the Cold War because many agents were left without jobs. What they did was to divert their expertise in intelligence and in security assessment from the military to the corporate sector, and it has worked," Gueta says.

The battlefield is now the boardroom and the enemies are no longer competitors, but sometimes people from within the organization.

But the methods of smoking out the culprits are the same—extensive intelligence gathering, psychological profiling, ability to read body language and designing and breaching security systems.

Gueta put up Business Profiles Inc. over 10 years ago and since then has provided expertise on political, economic, social and security issues facing corporate and industrial organizations.

It counts among its clients the country's largest local and multinational companies. Previously, he has even helped design the security for Michael Jackson's Concert Tour in 1996, Shaquille O'Neal's 1997 Asian Tour, Allen Iverson's 1998 Asian Tour and Kobe Bryant's 1998 Philippine Tour.

Services

Gueta, however, stresses that security services are not only about the physical protection, such as the installation of close-circuit television cameras and training of security guards. What is more important, he says, is to install systems that would prevent companies' valuable information from being stolen or copied by rivals.

This would mean compiling reports on the personal and business reputation of individuals, to check against people who may be vulnerable to corruption; protection against breaches of trademark and copyright, and formulation of solutions to minimize losses caused by fraud, embezzlement and industrial espionage.

"Organizations now increasingly sustain losses from the theft and disposal of intangibles—competitive information like marketing plans or intellectual property like proprietary formulas, specifications or confidential cost data;" he adds.

Gueta explains that many of the country's largest corporations go to intelligence companies like theirs because they cannot conduct an open investigation. Some of the suspects, for instance, are top ranking officials.

"They cannot ask government agencies to do it because it may affect their image, the reputation of the company, so we have to conduct closed investigations.

INTELLIGENCE/ C2

Uniting varied colors in global workplaces

BY MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO

LANCE Tanaka was born in the US. So were his parents, who moved to the US in the 1900s.

He speaks English like an American and can only do conversational Japanese.

Yet the stigma of being non-American was there when he forayed into the corporate world some 25 years ago.

Despite having been born, raised and educated in the US, the dark hair and Oriental features were enough to set him apart.

"I always felt like a foreigner," states Tanaka matter of factly.

But the discrimination did not kill his spirit. On the contrary it fired him up and inspired him.

When he was with Pepsi-Cola International, where he spent 15 years, he vowed to be the first Japanese to reach the elite group of Pepsi class executives which number about 100 out of its 400,000 employees worldwide.

He was the second to make it.

During the times he had to put in a lot of effort to do a job, he often wondered "why do I have to work harder when others don't have to?"

But his being different was what prompted him to succeed and now this is what he preaches.

He recently set up a company that aims to turn a person's difference and deficiency into an advantage.

Tanaka is the managing director of Asia Executive Resource Ltd., an Asia-based network of Asian and Asian American executives from international Fortune 500 companies who provide customized coaching and consulting on-the-job and in the market for multinational companies in localizing their global operations in Asia.

Its clients include some of the top 50 Fortune 500 firms belonging to fields like tax consulting, food, tobacco, fast food and manufacturing. Tanaka declines to give the names of his clients.

Basically what he does is address the corporate problems of the globalized world.

In brief, Asia Executive Resource aims to:

- Reduce exorbitant expatriate costs and localize company prac-

HOW/ C5

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Corporate culture, a competitive advantage?

MAPping THE FUTURE

Franco G. V. del Rosario

THE COST leadership and differentiation strategies seek competitive advantage in a broad target industry, while the two focus strategies pertain to those firms with a narrow target.

If a firm is to attain competitive advantage, it must make a choice between the broad or narrow target. Being "all-things-to-all-people" is a recipe for strategic mediocrity and below average performance, and often implies that a firm has no competitive advantage at all.

One example of differentiation is Amazon.com. It gained considerable competitive advantage over traditional bookstores when it leveraged technology by offering 24-hour shopping convenience over the Net.

Except for patented inventions, one problem is competitors look for ways to copy or improve these levers. There are firms that choose corporate culture as a competitive advantage as they believe that how people relate to each other is difficult for competitors to copy.

This article will expand on how an appropriate culture can powerfully reinforce the competitive advantage of any one of these generic strategies.

Corporate character can help or hinder a business; i.e., it is a source of strength or destruction. It is the ultimate paradox of business as culture is critically linked to its success yet culture's impact to the firm cannot be measured and only inferred.

Advantage

There is no such thing as a good or bad culture per se. Culture is a means of achieving competitive advantage, not an end in itself. People make their organizations.

A definition of corporate culture could help us understand how culture can be a competitive advantage. One version is, it is an organization's widely shared and deeply ingrained values, symbols, behaviors and assumptions. More simply, it is the way things get done. Likewise, culture is revealed by the way an organization handle success, failure, innovation and change.

There are two parameters that guide a firm's culture: it's degree of sociability and solidarity. Hence, there are the four types of cultures, namely, "networked": high sociability and low solidarity or vice-versa, high solidarity, low sociability called "mercenary."

The other two combinations are low on both counts called "fragmented" and the opposite being high on both measures, called "communal."

Sociability is a measure of friendliness among the people. People do kind things for one another because they want to. Sociability's value added is esprit de corps. Sociability at work usually means extending relationships outside the office.

It fosters creativity, teamwork, sharing of information, people going beyond the job requirements, working tirelessly until the job is done well to help their colleagues look good and succeed.

Drawbacks

However, we need to guard against the drawbacks of sociability, some examples are, as follows: tolerance of poor performers, exaggerated concern for consensus, reluctance to disagree with one another and formation of cliques. It is not uncommon for outsiders to the cliques to feel frustration about affecting business results.

At the other end of the spectrum is the firm's degree of solidarity. It is based on clearly shared goals and agreed-upon methods and rewards for professional behaviors. It benefits all involved parties regardless of degree of affection to each other. It is characterized by ruthlessness and piercing focus. It may be hurtful to those who get in the way of goals.

Several cultures exist at once. Hence, it is critical for companies to understand where they exist, how these cultures work together and clash and how to prevent people from demonstrating behaviors to their own benefit, not the organization's.

The levels of sociability and solidarity fall along a continuum. Most cultures are a hybrid but generally there is one culture that is more dominant. Any mention of culture in this article should be taken in that context.

When I joined the IBM company in the United States in 1984, I experienced first-hand how I was part of three cultures at the same time. I was with the Personal Computer Division (at that time it was called the "Entry Systems Division") that had several thousand people spread over 26 buildings in the Palm Beach County of Florida.

The predominant cultures that existed were, as follows: fragmented in the development lab, mercenary for the manufacturing plant and communal for channel marketing and the division HQ staff.

The three cultures worked well for the PC division as it was the first of its kind in IBM. It was the first time an IBM division on a large scale, had the authority to (1) hire experienced people from outside (2) source non-IBM components (3) sell through resellers (4) establish it's own PC marketing group to manage this alternate channel (5) have the division HQ staff reside in the same site as the plant and the lab. I would like to examine the appropriateness of each type of culture using the IBM PC division case.

When is a mercenary culture called for?

The scenarios that call for this culture are, as follows: (1) the company is under competitive siege (2) improving productivity and performance is required (3) change is fast and rampant (4) the organization needs to move quickly and in concert (5) customers judge it by pure numbers, such as lowest cost; or on explicit performance results (6) pursuing a cost leadership strategy for competitive advantage. Mercenary people are goal-driven.

Thus, they adopt frugality, practice discipline and pay attention to details without problems. Therefore, this strategy has a high probability of success in this culture.

The IBM PC division was pushing for both cost leadership and differentiation. It was not surprising then that the manufacturing plant of this division had a predominant mercenary culture. It was under siege by Apple Computer and other PC manufacturers.

The business was surely changing fast and it was critical for the manufacturing plant to move quickly, in lock step with the development lab and marketing. No doubt, customers were judging which PC to buy based on cost and explicit performance results; in this case the warranties given to the products.

When is a fragmented culture ideal?

When innovation comes mainly from individual activities (research and development or academic institutions) and when people require high levels of freedom and individuality. Usually this environment is very conducive in attaining competitive advantage through the differentiation strategy. Both the hardware and the software development labs of the IBM PC division were characterized by a predominantly fragmented culture. This strategy of this side of the business was differentiation and that was the main objective of the lab.

The lab people were pretty much given a lot of freedom as long as they met certain milestones.

Culture can be read in evaluating how physical space is occupied. In the development labs, consistent with their fragmented culture, I saw more people with office doors closed and their offices were well equipped so that they were effectively self-contained.

While during visits I made with manufacturing people, consistent with their mercenary culture, I witnessed how they shooed away people that dropped by when they were busy.

Communication is another telling sign of a culture. Again consistent with their mercenary culture, I noticed most of the communications I received from the manufacturing people were mostly e-mails that were mostly swift, direct and work-focused and rarely were they face-to-face or phone calls. Whereas the fragmented-dominated development people had a tendency to talk only to those of us in division HQ they felt were worth talking to; such as when they needed us to help them get rid of a problem or to ask for resources.

What about the communal culture?

Many argue it is the best culture since it has the highest potential to deliver competitive advantage and personal fulfillment. However, this culture is difficult to maintain precisely as sociability and solidarity contradict each other.

A balancing act is required that entails careful exhaustive management attention. Generally, small companies with charismatic CEOs have success in maintaining a communal culture.

The development labs and manufacturing in the IBM PC division were located mostly together in what was called "the main site" where over 70 percent of the division population were housed. The division HQ staff was a relatively small group located in three contiguous HQ buildings.

Hence, it was not surprising that most HQ staff though from different functions were of the same predominantly communal culture.

What about the networked culture?

This is the only culture that I was not aware of that existed in the PC division. Some examples of when this culture is ideal are, as follows: (1) when a high level of loyalty and commitment to colleagues is required (2) when a lot of creativity is required (3) when flexibility is required.

The leaders in this culture are politicians: they know who to speak to and use informal conversations to find synergies. However, this was one trait that IBMers of all cultures had a good knack of. One likely candidate for the networked culture are non-profit organizations.

Conclusion

We are, therefore, led to conclude that a culture can make the difference for a company that wins and loses; and for the individual between joy on the job and drudgery.

In the case of the IBM PC division, cultivating the appropriate culture for each of the main functions paid off big-time for the division, as well as for the individual. Corporate culture can be the toughest constraint or the greatest opportunity to success. The choice is yours!

(This article reflects the personal views of the author who is a member of the Management Association of the Philippines and chair of Sharexchange Brokers Inc. The MAP secretariat and the author may be reached via mapsec@globe.com.ph)

Intelligence operations shift

(From page C1)

I have to use all my talents and ability to get evidence that I would need because it has to be discreet," he says.

Tactics

The intelligence gathering part of their work can run to months because of the painstaking research and studies. They sometimes have to plant employees within a target organization to get a bird's eye view of what's happening.

There are many ways, he says, and this is where the intelligence training in the military or the police department comes in handy.

"Since we don't have a badge to force people to answer our questions, we have to be more creative. We have to find ways to get people to talk and own up to a crime without their knowing it," Gueta says.

The business is still growing in the Philippines, he says, particularly among the local firms. Multinationals, he says, are already on board. But the prospects are bright.

Business Profiles already counts many conglomerates, top manufacturing and retail firms, pharmaceutical and semiconductor manufacturing firms among its clients.

"A company need not be a victim to espionage. They have to protect themselves especially now that information has become so valuable," Grueta says.

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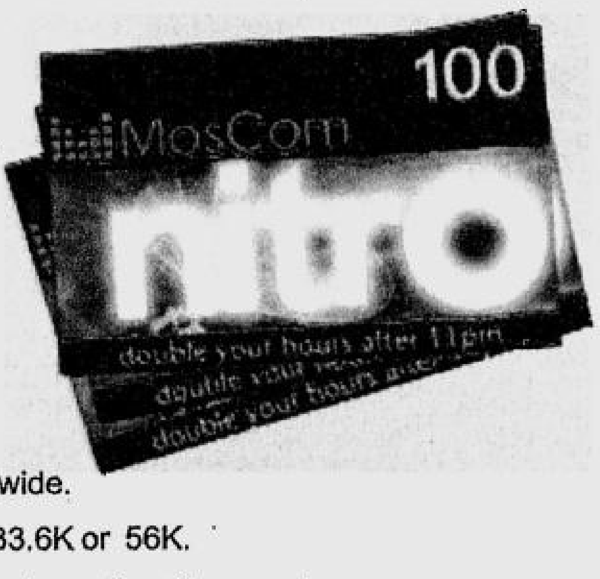

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‘People will work for things other than money’

By Elena R. Torrijos

MANAGEMENT STYLES

NEW Chinatrust (Phils.) Commercial Bank Corp. president and first time chief executive Joey Bermudez feels ready and able to take on the challenge of steering the bank across the unstable stretches of the Philippine economy.

“I've been preparing for this for many years. I knew one day an opportunity like this might come,” Bermudez says of reaching the top post for the first time after doing the rounds of several banks.

Before officially assuming his Chinatrust post on Oct. 15, Bermudez was senior executive vice president and chief operating officer of Philippine Savings Bank, the retail and consumer banking arm of the Metrobank group.

He was with the Solid Bank before it was bought by Metrobank.

Bermudez also worked with the Standard Chartered Bank as country consumer banking head for the Philippines and with Philippine Commercial International Bank, where he spent 14 years primarily focused on consumer banking and middle market lending.

A father of five (four sons and a daughter), Bermudez is married to Ester Quizon Villa, a finance executive herself before she became a full-time housewife and part-time entrepreneur.

In his spare time, he plays high-handicap golf, jogs, works out in the gym, goes to the mall with his family, attends Rotary activities and engages in social development work.

“I think what's very important when somebody takes on a job like this (CEO) is maturity and stability. The first two occasions that an offer like this to be CEO came along, I felt was too young,” the 45-year-old banker says.

Chinatrust Phils., the local subsidiary of the largest private commercial bank in Taiwan, presented a golden opportunity for him to share his 25 years of experience in banking at the time he believed he had attained the maturity, stability and general expertise required for the job. The foreign bank unit was at that time looking for a replacement for his predecessor, William Go, who opted for a lighter load following the sale of his shares to Chinatrust Taipei.

“I hope to contribute by bringing my retail banking experience here, plus the experience I've had in the middle market because part of our growth plan in the next five years is to be involved with a lot of medium-sized enterprises,” Bermudez says.

In his previous posts, he introduced innovative products, distribution strategies and marketing programs. On the corporate front, he earned distinction by formulating and successfully executing financing programs and risk-mitigation

PEOPLE/ C6

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HONDA

Susubukan mo ba?

Culture of quality makes companies win

By Filemon T. Berba Jr. and Juan A. Quintos

(Last of three parts)

THE PHILIPPINE Quality Award Criteria for Performance Excellence provide organizations with an integrated, results-oriented framework in implementing and assessing processes in managing operations.

These criteria are non-prescriptive and form the bases for the feedback given to award applicants after examination by the PQA assessors.

The "Leadership" category examines how the organization's senior leaders address values and performance expectations and their focus on customers and stakeholders, innovation, learning and organizational directions.

"Strategic Planning" relates to the organization's strategy development process, deployment of plans and tracking of performance.

"Customer and Market Focus" examines how the organization determines requirements and expectations of customers and markets and how it builds customer relationships and satisfaction.

"Information and Analysis" focuses on the organization's performance measurement system and how it analyzes performance data and information.

"Human Resource Focus" category delves into how the organization enables employees to develop and utilize their full potential as aligned with the organization's objectives.

"Process Management" pertains to the key aspects of the organization's process management.

Lastly, the "Business Results" category examines the organization's performance and improvement in key business areas such as customer satisfaction, product and service performance, financial performance, human resource results, supplier and partner results and operational performance.

These criteria have important roles in strengthening Philippine competitiveness. They help improve performance practices and capabilities, facilitate communication and sharing of best practices information among Philippine organizations, and serve as a working tool for managing performance, planning and training.

Why apply for PQA?

The challenge of making an application for the award will bring the organization substantial benefits. Even if an applicant does not qualify, it gains an outside perspective on its business and organizational performance based on 550-600 man-hours of review by the PQA assessors.

The feedback report highlights strengths and areas for improvement for each of the criteria addressed in the application.

The use of the award criteria will help companies understand, select, and integrate appropriate management tools such as ISO 9000, quality management, benchmarking, and high performance work improvement schemes.

The award criteria and scoring system provide a clear perspective on the distinction between average performance and world-class performance.

PQA applicants, whether they win or not, will benefit greatly after undergoing such rigorous assessment process. The minimum investment of P10,000 (current application fee for private companies) or P5,000 (for SMEs and government agencies), will yield more than its actual worth in terms of the various organizational learnings that can be gained.

The application process

Public and private sector organizations may apply for the award. An applicant organization must submit an eligibility determination form (EDF), a completed application form and an application report consisting of a business overview and responses to the requirements of each category.

The EDF is evaluated and approved by the award administrators and the implementing agency. Award applications are reviewed and evaluated by a team of assessors.

Site visits will be conducted to qualified applicants based from the results of the assessors' consensus reviews and evaluation. The board of judges reviews and submits the list of award recipients to the award manager who, in turn, shall recommend it to the President for conferment of the award.

The PQA organization

The PQA program, a public-private sector partnership, has for its patron the President. The trade and industry secretary serves as the award manager with the DTI-Center for Industrial Competitiveness tasked to oversee the program implementation.

At present, the Development Academy of the Philippines and the Philippine Society for Quality are the award administrators for the public and private sector, respectively. The PQA committee is the steering and policy-making body of the PQA program.

The Philippine Quality Award Foundation, whose board of trustees is composed of prominent CEOs and industry leaders in the country, provides financial and advisory support to the program.

The PQA assessors

The PQA assessors are composed of noted business and quality practitioners from the industry, academe and government. They are required to attend the PQA Assessors Preparation Courses for them to be able to evaluate PQA applications, write feedback reports, prepare recommendations to the board of judges and conduct self-assessment on quality management within their own organizations.

The PQA board of judges

The board of judges is composed of prominent people and noted industry leaders in our country. The members were chosen on the basis of their depth and diversity of experience, leadership qualities, and knowledge of business and specialized areas.

The board of judges is recognized for its critical role in maintaining the integrity, value and meaning of the PQA program and in contributing significantly to the overall PQA mission.

Some of those who have served during the past PQA cycles are former Prime Minister Cesar Virata, Felipe Alfonso, former DTI Secretary Rizalino S. Navarro, former UP Chancellor Claro T. Llaguno, Secretary Angelito M. Sarmiento, Roberto V. Garcia, Bro. Andrew Gonzalez, Commission on Audit Chairperson Guillermo N. Carague, and former chair of the Civil Service Commission, Corazon Alma G. de Leon.

The PQA and its impact

Feliciano L. Torres, president of Yazaki-Torres Manufacturing, affirmed that the "PQA instigated a challenge and have motivated us to do better. To prove that we deserve the honor, we are continuing our efforts toward a more progressive achievement."

He further stated that it makes the employees better appreciate the company's effort in developing and utilizing their full potential.

Astec Power Inc., a world-class supplier of standard and custom power supplies, has recognized the award as having promoted better communication and cooperation between employees and management and has also encouraged participation of the rank and file level for the company improvement.

The company considers the PQA as having boosted employee morale and promoted better relationship between top management and employees.

What's in store for PQA winners?

There is considerable status and prestige attached to winning the PQA. Promotion of the award and the opportunity to use the logo of the PQA in corporate literature will establish the winners as members of the most successful group of organizations in the country.

Winners will share their experiences on total quality management and best practices at conferences and seminars, such as the annual PQA Winners' Forum, organized by the PQA Foundation and the supporters of the PQA program.

This offers an excellent platform for the promotion of their status as leaders and models for performance excellence as well as helping promote the PQA program in the country for global competitiveness.

Moving ahead on quality, productivity

Globalization, with all its perceived adverse impact on developing economies, is an unavoidable reality. Technological advances particularly in information and communication technology provide enabling tools for improved operations and management.

Global competitiveness requires organizations to benchmark against best practices. We must work together toward having that competitive environment and pursue management practices that are customer focused and quality and productivity driven.

The Philippine Quality Award, patterned after the world-acknowledged Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, is a good start for us to learn how to be competitive in this new global order.

(To learn more about the Philippine Quality Award, you may contact DTI-CIC at 890-4889 or 897-5554 or e-mail at cic@dti.gov.ph; Development Academy of the Philippines at 631-2137 or 631-2156 or e-mail at pdc@dap.edu.ph; or the Philippine Society for Quality at 899-5925 or 896-44-64 or e-mail at psq@rp1.net. You may also view the PQA website at www.pqa.org.ph.

Filemon T. Berba Jr. is past president of the Management Association of the Philippines, vice chair and CEO of Integrated Microelectronics Inc. and is also president of the Philippine Quality Award Foundation Inc. Juan A. Quintos is chair and CEO of Rosehall Management Consultants Inc. He is also the current president of the Philippine Quality and Productivity Movement.)

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Raising capital-money need not come from your pocket

By Myrna R. Co
UP Institute for Small-Scale Industries

GOING INTO BUSINESS

MONEY with which to start and run your new small business can be raised in various ways.

Obviously, the money can come from your own pocket. This may be what you have saved over the years. Or this may come from proceeds from selling a car, a lot, jewelry or other prized personal belongings.

Possibly, you have stock certificates or government bonds that you can readily convert into cash. This money coming from the owner's personal resources is called the capital or owner's capital.

Using your own money is, of course, the safest way to finance a business. The next safest way is to borrow from close relatives and friends. You'll have to pay them back, naturally, but they are usually prepared to be more flexible about when you repay them. "Payable when able" is the softest loan you can find anywhere, but you can get it only from family and buddy. In addition, you may also be able to get away with paying very low interest rates or none at all.

Sometimes, however, what can be raised from your personal resources and from relatives and friends are not enough to meet all the requirements of your business. Then you can start looking for outside sources.

It is assumed that you have a clear idea of how much you need. Otherwise, you run the risk of being short of funds even before the business takes off or when you are already running midstream.

External sources of credit

You can consider the following sources of money:

- Pawnshops. You can get quick cash by pawning jewelry and other valuables.
- Credit cooperatives. These are a popular and easy source of credit especially in the rural areas. It may therefore be very useful for you, as entrepreneur, to join one.

Usually a credit coop will lend an amount up to five times bigger than the money a member has deposited in it. Interest charges are often minimal.

- Money lenders. These are people who lend quick money without collateral but charge exorbitant interest rates. They are otherwise known as "five-six" operators, because they usually charge about a peso interest per month for every P5 they lend.
- Lending investors. These are business enterprises engaged in money-lending operations. Considered a cross between money lenders and banks, lending investors extend short-term loans quickly to individuals and businesses with or without collateral.

Interest rates are higher than bank rates but lower than those charged by money lenders—usually ranging from 3 to 5 percent a month.

Lending investors have proliferated all over the country and have become an important source of credit to small enterprises.

LOTS OF BUSINESS TIPS IN HERE!
SMEs TRAINING PROGRAM
Roque

- Formal sources of credit. These include banks, financial institutions and certain government development agencies and development-oriented non-government organizations.

They are called formal sources of credit because they have the legal authority or mandate to lend money to individuals and businesses.

Types of loans

There are various types of credit available from formal lending institutions.

- Short-term loans. These are loans payable in one year or less. They are normally self-liquidating, meaning they are used to buy raw materials and supplies, labor and other requirements that will generate funds for the business and in turn be used for paying back the loan.

Collateral is usually required. However, a bank may extend a collateral-free loan, otherwise known as a clean loan to a client with an excellent credit track record.

Short-term loans may come in the form of a revolving credit line—an agreement by the bank to extend a loan, not to exceed a specific amount, whenever needed by the borrower.

A credit line is automatically renewable, as the borrower pays off each loan transaction. Commercial banks are the most commonly used sources of short-term loans.

- Intermediate loans. Otherwise known as term loans, these are loans that provide capital repayable in one to three years. These are available from banks and other financing institutions.

For a start-up entrepreneur, term loans may be very useful. It is backed up by collateral securities and paid back in installments.

- Long-term loans. These are extended only if the lending institution is assured that the borrowing enterprises would still be in business—and making a profit—over the long-term period of the loan which is up to 10 years.

Thus, to qualify, your business must be seen to be stable and sustainable. These are usually extended by private and government banks.

SME-friendly banks

Most banks lend to small business.

RAISING/ C6

TANAKA: Most businesses have same problems.

Uniting varied colors in global workplaces

(From page C1)

tices through transferring skills from expatriate to local Asian managers.

- Coach expatriates on how to be effective in working with and transferring skills to Asian managers.
- Coach local Asian managers on how to be effective with Western management practice, style, communications, processes.

The firm, which is scouting for a local partner to set up shop in the country, says there are three reasons why a company should get the service:

1. Expatriates have a high failure rate in Asia. They cite a study in the International Journal of Commerce and Management where 25 percent to 40 percent of American managers fail in their overseas assignments, three to four times higher than those experienced by Europeans and international managers.

2. The cost of expatriates is high. Some 80 percent of the respondents in a Harvard University report on the "New International Executive" said the executive's inability to adjust to a foreign cultural environment is the key reason for failure in an international post.

3. Good decisions require different date points including external date. A Wall Street Journal report stated that it is often dangerous to rely too heavily on internal company information. At times it can be biased, inaccurate and one sided.

Tanaka says he has been thinking of going on his own since 10 years ago. After Pepsi, he moved to Nike-Cole Haan. He was VP of International that he says meant being in charge of "everything other than manufacturing."

He restructured and set up new operations in Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, the Philippines, Malaysia and Korea. The restructuring included getting new franchise holders such as in the Philippines.

His Asian experiences exposed him to the issues facing multicultural work environments.

"I kept seeing Americans in Asia doing wrong things, saying wrong things. It's so simple to teach them. I've seen Asians in the US and they are not doing very well," he states.

Tanaka observes that most businesses have the same problems: people, internal communication and ability to think out of the box.

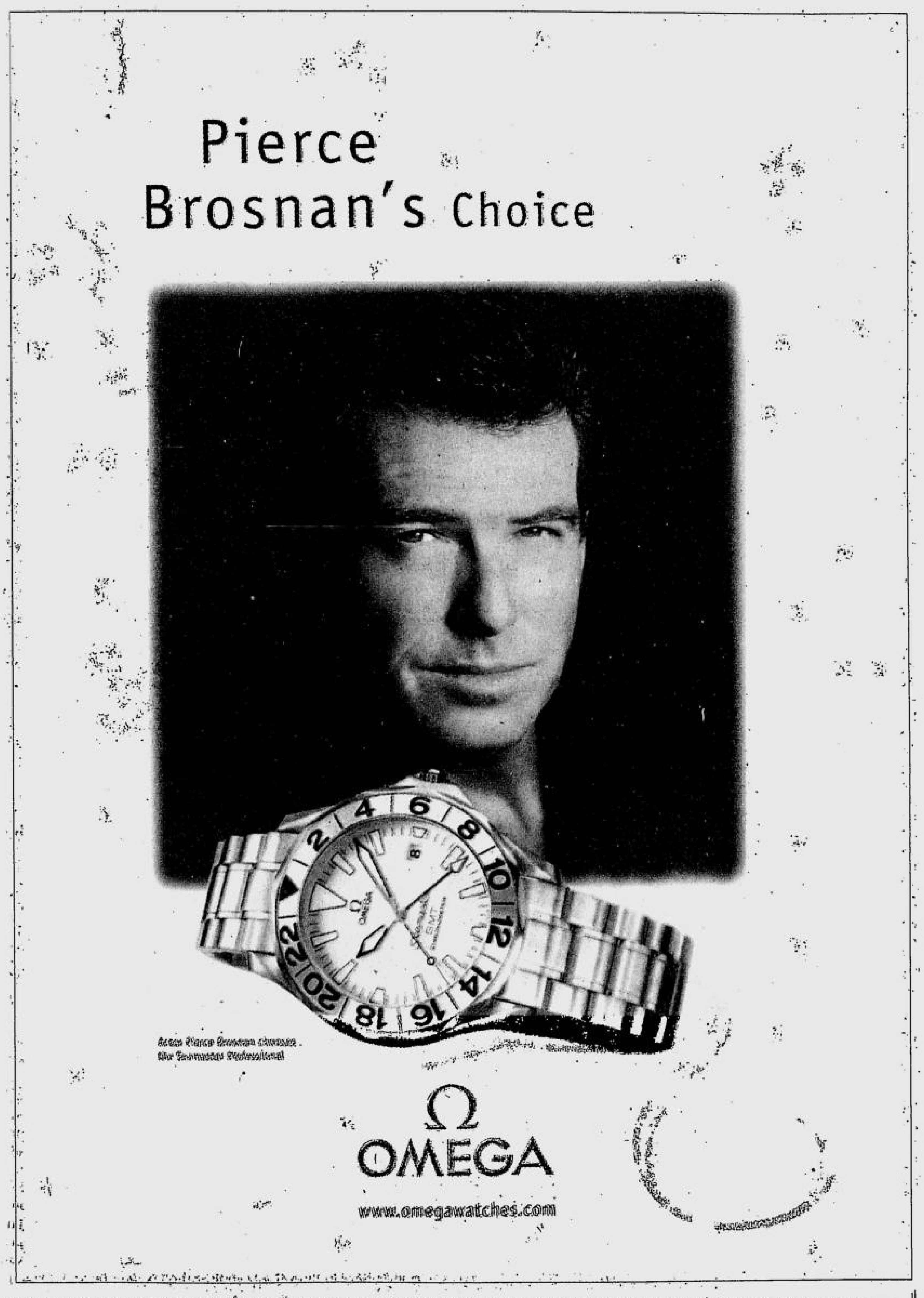
In the Philippines, which is dominated by family-owned businesses, Tanaka says their focus will be these groups.

"The biggest problem with family-owned companies is succession," he says.

He points out that the second generation has to learn how the business is run. However he says the second generation cannot learn everything from the first generation because of the changing business environment.

Asia Resource plans to soon set up an office in the Philippines. It is negotiating with a group for a possible joint venture.

Tanaka admits that their service does not come cheap but he says no tag can be put on the long-term benefits of what they can do.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Nasubukan mo ba?

Raising . . .

(From page C5)

But it is also true that some banks are more SME-friendly than others, given the well-known risks and transaction costs which SME lending is associated with.

In its November 2000 issue, Entrepreneur Philippines short-listed five banks as "best for small business." These are:

- Development Bank of the Philippines, which affirmed its commitment to the "Pinoy entreprenyor" by devoting 50 percent of its total loans or P30 billion to SMEs.

New enterprises may check out the bank's Window III program, a retail lending facility for projects with development impact; Omnibus Financing Program for New Entrepreneurs; and Industrial Guarantee and Loan Fund (IGLF) which is retailed through conduit banks.

For growing enterprises, the DBP has the Industrial Support and Services Expansion Program or Issep, which offers a package of credit and technical services.

- The Land Bank of the Philippines, meanwhile, remitted P11.3 billion to SMEs in 1999 through a number of specialized programs. These programs include the Agricultural Loan Fund, Countryside Loan Funds, Micro and Cottage Credit Project, and the Rural Micro-enterprise Finance Project.
- Consumer Savings Bank. It won an award from the Small Business Guarantee and Financing Corporation as an outstanding partner in SME lending, despite being a relative "unknown" in the banking field.

The bank has 19 branches nationwide.

- Metrobank is one of the biggest universal banks in the country with 821 branches. It is a conduit bank for just about all government-funded loans to SMEs, including the IGLF and the Issep programs of DBP and the Countryside Loan Fund of Landbank. The bank has been consistently cited by DBP for its contribution to the growth of SMEs in the country.
- Planters Development Bank. While it is the country's biggest private development bank, it clearly defined SMEs as its target market since it resolved 15 years ago in a strategic planning workshop to be the bank of SMEs.

It has won just about every award and distinction for SME lending. It has been elevated to the "hall of fame" of DBP, SBGFC and Landbank.

Its non-financial services to SMEs include an online resource center for industry news and market information, a training development center for SME finance and a facility for going for e-commerce and creating websites.

Other government institutions with specialized SME credit programs include the Department of Science and Technology, and the Technology and Livelihood Resource Center with facilities for financing technology-oriented small business projects; the Philippine National Bank which implements the Pangkabuhayan Loan Program; and the Small Business Guarantee and Finance Corporation which, aside from its guarantee programs, has its own small enterprise financing facility.

(UP Institute for Small-Scale Industries will have: Franchising Course for Small and Medium Entrepreneurs on Nov. 21-23; Factory Automation Systems and Technologies on Nov. 5-9; and SMEs Going Global on Nov. 27 to January 18, 2002. For inquiries call 928-7076 and 926-6316.)

People . . .

(From page C3)

schemes for agribusiness projects, medium-sized exporters, small businessmen, housing developers, local government and countryside enterprises.

Along the way up the corporate ladder, Bermudez, a certified public accountant who holds a bachelor's degree in commerce from the University of Santo Tomas, learned valuable lessons in managing people.

"The most important lesson I've learned which I've taken with me now is that people will work for other things other than money," Bermudez asserts. "It's not enough that you overpay somebody to make him work well. I think a person, a professional will work well if he has ownership of the work and its outcome. So if you give him responsibility, you empower him, you make him accountable for the output, then he will do well."

People will also work well if they feel what is being done has significant value to the entire organization and they think that the boss is fair in rewarding good work or laying down the consequences of mistakes, he adds.

On management, Bermudez believes that various styles can work. "There is no single management style that works. No one can say theory X works or theory Y works or only a combination works because it depends on the situation and the organization. Organizations are differently situated because they go through various phases in their lives. Management style will have to adjust," Bermudez points out.

He has often had to apply his management principles to challenging situations in the past. His skills were put to the test especially when he assumed new leadership responsibilities or had to effect a sweeping change.

"Whenever I got into new responsibilities, the challenge would be to get people to accept your leadership especially if they have gotten used to a particular style, to your predecessor and have become comfortable with it," Bermudez says.

"There have also been a couple of instances in the past when I had to take on a new responsibility and the mandate was to radically change things. That was a tough mandate because when you change things, especially when you're new, you inevitably run into some form of resistance and how you overcome that resistance is an art. None of the books that I've read told me how resistance could be overcome and I have sort of learned that art the difficult way," he discloses.

In either case, a leader must "sell" his or her ideas in an effort to rally people behind it. "You cannot just tell an organization this is our business plan, everybody does it. It's a combination of selling early and trying to get people to own it themselves," he explains.

"Of course, some people would take to it, they would buy it and own it but some people simply will fundamentally disagree with those ideas and will therefore beg off from having to participate in the execution of these plans," he observes. "I think when this happens you have to give people the leeway to do that. If they think they are not cut out for the kind of things you would like to the organization to do, you have to give them the opportunity to opt out if that is their wish. You cannot force the issue all the time. But at the same time you do that only when you've tried selling."

After selling the ideas, which should have been preceded by listening to people and gathering their inputs, Bermudez stresses that execution must be done with a quick, strong hand.

"It is high risk to delay executing your plans or to even have too many second thoughts and be very tentative. I think if you have a plan and the majority supports, then you must execute it with conviction," he emphasizes. "Normally when a plan calls for many changes in the first few months of its execution, there will be tremendous problems and there is temptation to give up, to lose heart, change direction. The question you always ask yourself is, maybe this is not the right plan, maybe there is something else because if it is the right plan, why is it running into so many problems?"

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People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

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Sony mobile phone says you're different

SONY Philippines Inc. recently launched in the country the Sony CMD-J5 mobile phone, offering the upwardly mobile who are achieving success a medium to express their individuality and complement their lifestyles.

The words that best capture the J5: distinctive, a stand-out, light and handy, outstanding graphics, one-of-a-kind ringer, huge phone book memory and great battery life.

In local preview trials, the J5 earned high marks, if not raves, from randomly selected, cellphone-savvy professionals who used it for an extended period. They cited the phone's advanced, easy-to-use features that they said allowed them to customize it to reflect their tastes, while conforming to their active lifestyles instead of their having to get used to its functions.

With its attention-getting, sleek and lightweight form, the J5 fits the hand perfectly and affords an extremely comfortable grip, especially while texting. Unique to the J5 are its capability for recording ringer tones (such as the owner's voice) for incoming calls, as well as for text messages and its calendar alarm. A whole menu of existing, high-quality ringer tones delivers a one-of-a-kind, relaxing, chiming ring when used, in addition to the traditional but enhanced buzzer ring.

Apart from the ringer function, the J5 boasts a high-quality conference microphone and a built-in, hands-free speaker that enables several people to speak to the party on the other end.

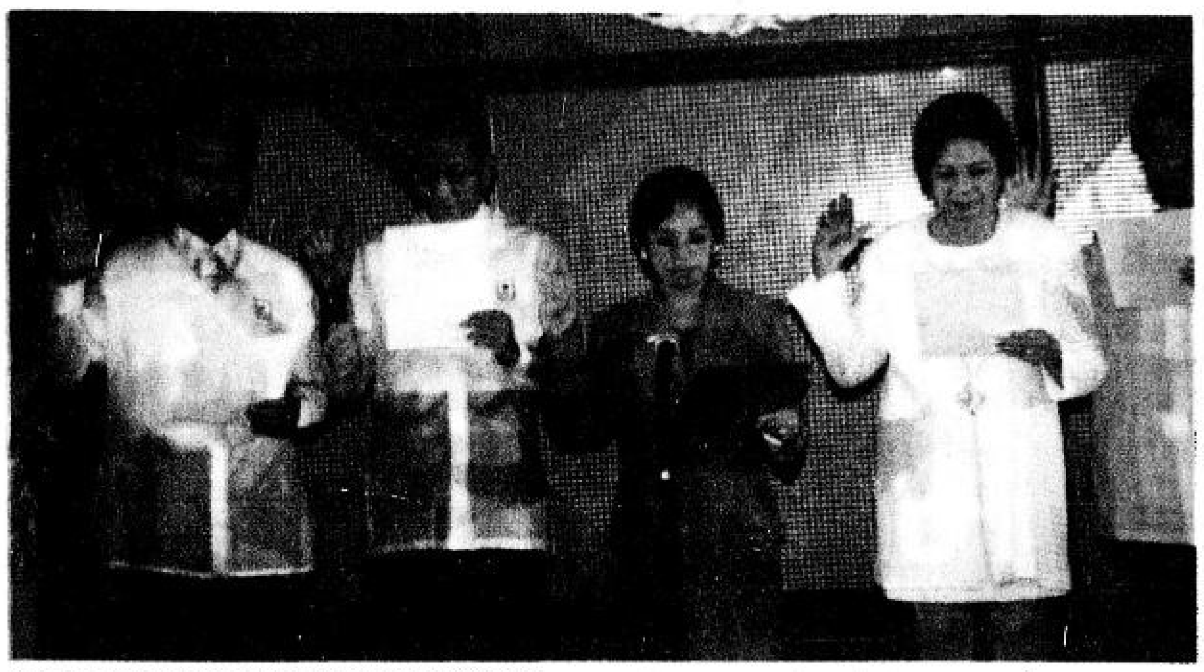
Another unique feature is the J5's built-in collection of graphics, which according to one trial user is "computer-like" and the best he has ever seen on a mobile phone. Using proprietary software, graphics can also be downloaded from a computer to the J5's big display screen (including photos that can be used as wallpaper). The screen offers a resolution of 96 x 92 pixels and 4 grey scale color.

Still another notable feature of the Sony J5 is its 500-entry phone book, which allows several phone numbers (mobile, office, residence, etc.) to be stored for every entry. This highly useful, time-saving feature gives access to all information about each entry with just one click, without having to key in extra characters for each number.

Rounding out the J5's advantages are its long battery life, and a lineup of games that one trial user described as "fun to play."

"I was the envy of my friends when I bought this phone to school. They wanted to trade their phones for mine. Almost everyone in my class would like to buy a Sony phone," said the trial user, who goes to a leading exclusive school. A common remark from his technology-conscious classmates: the most advanced and high-tech phone that they've ever seen.

In fact, many people did ask where they could get a J5, after seeing it in action and learning its approximate price.



NREA INDUCTION IN MALACAÑANG

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo inducts in Malacañang the officers and trustees of the National Real Estate Association (NREA), the one-stop trade organization. From left is immediate past president Reynaldo A. Carpio with chair of the board Jose V. Manalad, president Tarcela Pacheco and executive vice president Jaime Hernandez. Other inductees were vice president-external Celia A. Umali, vice president-external Felino A. Palafox Jr., vice president-chapters Lourdes R. Estacio, secretary general Ruben B. Palacio Jr., treasurer Francisco A. Mendoza, auditor Adelaido S. De Guzman, PRO Ricardo K. Bolipata and trustees Moises A. Balon, Rolando P. Liao, Dante V. Liban, Erlinda G. Tayenco and Vicente M. Yordan.

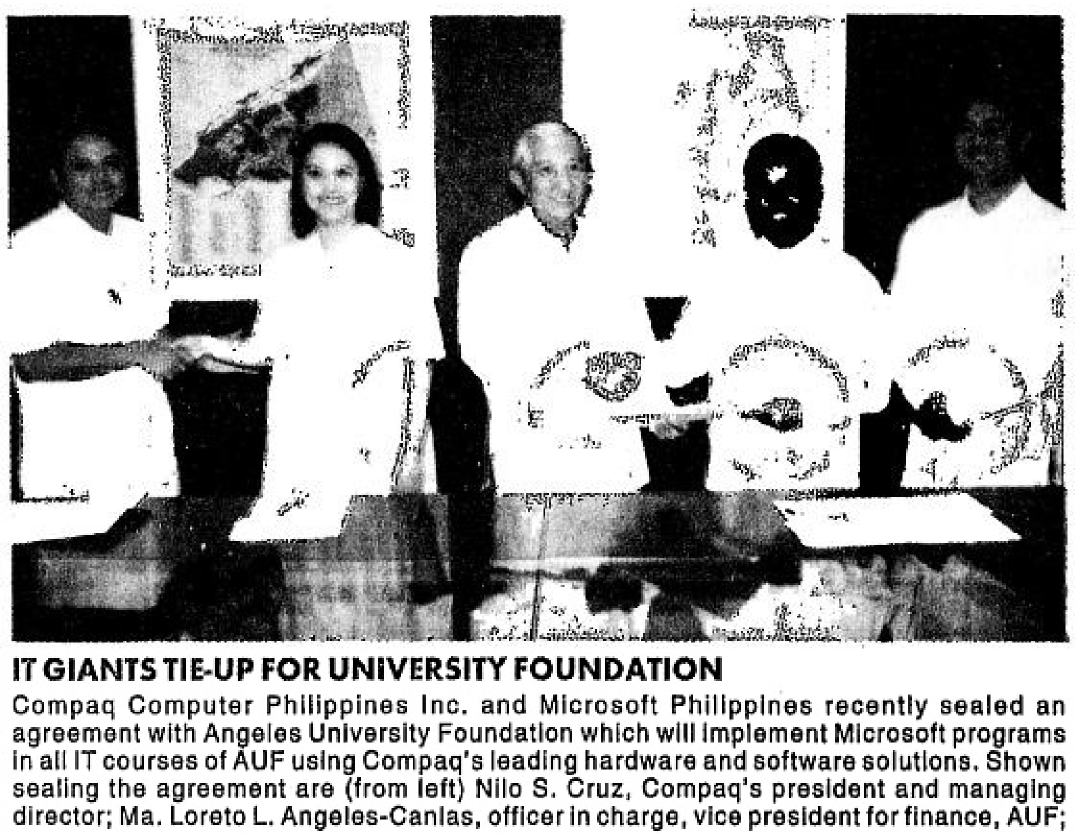
Nestle
Nestle

FLY WITH NESTLE ICE CREAM AND YOGURT

Ah, the pleasures of traveling to destinations abroad. You're 35,000 feet in the air, watching the clouds and enjoying your favorite Nestle ice cream or yogurt. That's right. Whether you're off to spend a vacation or business abroad, you can have Nestle ice cream and yogurt of your choice. The Nestle Ice Cream division signed an agreement recently with Macro-Asia Eurest Catering Services to supply its well-loved products on overseas flights. Macro-Asia's general manager, Thomas Jamtander (third from left) signs the agreement with Nestle's area sales manager Cindy Banaria (second from left).

BTC, CBL HEAD FOR JV

Bonifacio Transport Corp., a subsidiary of Fort Bonifacio Development Corp., recently entered into a memorandum of agreement with California Bus Lines Inc. (CBL) for a possible formation of a joint venture company. Shown signing the agreement are (seated, left) Vicente C. Tinsay III, FBDC senior vice president, commercial operations 2 and Ricardo S. Cutiongco, vice president of CBL. Standing as witnesses are (from left) Reymundo S. Cochangco, vice president, FBDC; Cesar V. Arada, finance and administration manager, BTC; lawyer Jose Manuel L. Banayad, legal manager, FBDC; Edwin C. Cutiongco, business development officer, CBL and Arturo L. Abacan, corporate development manager, FBDC.



IT GIANTS TIE-UP FOR UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION

Compaq Computer Philippines Inc. and Microsoft Philippines recently sealed an agreement with Angeles University Foundation which will implement Microsoft programs in all IT courses of AUF using Compaq's leading hardware and software solutions. Shown sealing the agreement are (from left) Nilo S. Cruz, Compaq's president and managing director; Ma. Loreto L. Angeles-Canlas, officer in charge, vice president for finance, AUF; lawyer Emmanuel Y. Angeles, president, AUF; Richard Francis, Microsoft's managing director; and lawyer Agustin L. Angeles, legal counsel, AUF.

Motorola introduces hip new handset

MOTOROLA has launched its latest personal mobile companion, the Motorola i50sx – a new handset that combines many of the capabilities of a handheld computer, two-way radio, interactive text messaging, and Internet-ready mobile phone in a hip, compact, affordable package. This new handset is ideal for young mobile professionals and tech-savvy individuals with great need for customizable features on their phones. It is designed for the young, image-conscious consumers who want to express their individuality while remaining constantly connected with people and information. i50sx users can personalize the look of their handset with interchangeable colored faceplates available in black, blue, green, purple, silver and bronze. Keypads are also interchangeable in silver and black colors.

The i50sx is the second of Motorola's new generation of wireless devices that are enabled by Java 2 Platform Micro Edition (J2ME) which allows users to constantly update their devices with applications to meet their changing needs, in much the same way users upgrade their PCs and handheld computers. The i50sx is now available at affordable prices through Nextel.

BITS Clips

Oktoberfest at Robinsons

THE SECOND level of Robinsons Place Manila is currently the venue for the mall celebration of Oktoberfest, which runs until Oct. 31. Taking centerstage are Philippine-manufactured Kalibog and Malice Liquor from El Tomador. Activities are tasting, sampling, and fun games hosted by El Tomador. Also available during the feast are regional delicacies and delicatessen, wines and Asahi beer from Japan. The fair is organized by PhilTrade Exhibits and is open to the public. For details, call 820-7879, 820-1570.

UP College of Business awards nominations

HOMECOMING alumni of the UP Diliman College of Business Administration are requested to send their nominations for the newly established Distinguished Alumni Awards for graduates of the College. Nominees must be UP CBA alumni who have outstanding accomplishments in the field of business management or entrepreneurship, or who have rendered outstanding public service. Ten awardees shall be selected. The final selection of awardees will be announced during the Dec. 2 alumni homecoming of the UP CBA. Nominations should be forwarded to the Dean's Office of the UP CBA by Oct. 31. Interested parties may call 928-4571 to 74 for more information.

Scooby-Doo at Jollibee

EVERYONE'S favorite cartoon scaredy-dog and his friends have come to Jollibee for one hilarious, haunted Halloween. Kids and kids-at-heart can collect five Scooby-Doo toys that connect to form one action and adventure-filled haunted house. Ghosts, vampires and monsters chase Scooby-Doo, Shaggy, Daphne, Velma and Fred through a funhouse of horrors. Get scrambling to your nearest Jollibee stores now and start collecting these toys which come with the Jolly Kiddie Meals. Offer runs until Oct. 31.

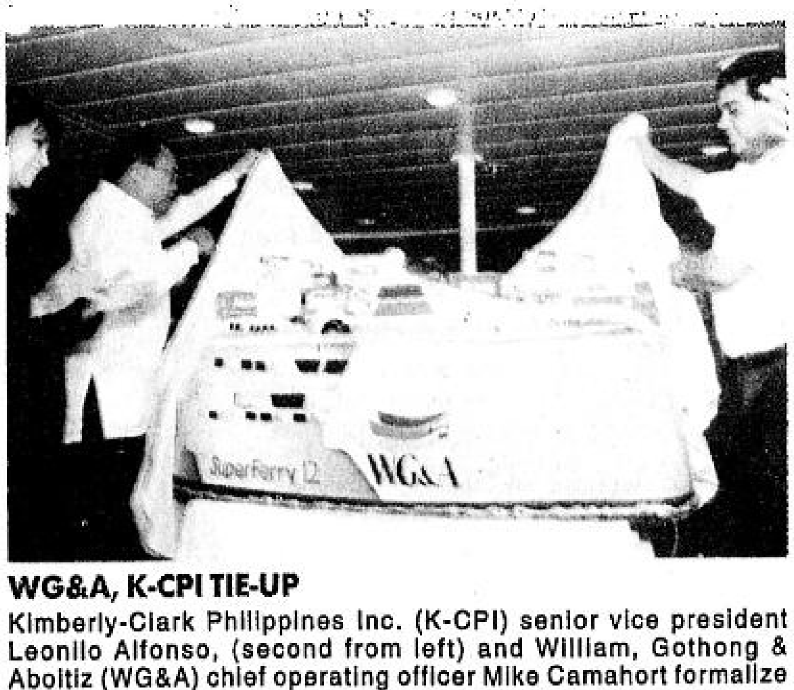
the Workplace

ASTRAZENECA IN MENTAL HEALTH CAMPAIGN

AstraZeneca led this year's celebration of World Mental Health Day, focusing on the theme, 'Mental Health in the Workplace'. A press conference was held recently at Linden Suites in cooperation with Citibank and the Philippine Psychiatric Association. Invited as panelists were (from left) Dr. Paul Lee, Dr. Bernardo Jorge Conde, Dr. Venus Arain and Dr. Vicente Cabuquit with Dr. Efren Reyes as the main speaker. World Mental Health Day is being celebrated with hopes of raising global awareness of mental illness and the potential for recovery.

MICROSOFT AGREEMENT WITH BAYANTRADE

Microsoft Philippines recently signed a reseller memorandum of agreement with BayanTrade for the Microsoft BizTalk Server platform. BizTalk will allow a company's enterprise resource planning (ERP) system to connect with the BayanTrade eMarketPlace. Shown (from left) are BayanTrade CEO Carol Carreon, Microsoft Philippines Inc. director for e-Commerce group Richard Lozada and Aboitiz Equity Ventures COO Erramon I. Aboitiz.



WG&A, K-CPI TIE-UP

Kimberly-Clark Philippines Inc. (K-CPI) senior vice president Leonilo Alfonso, (second from left) and William, Gothong & Aboitiz (WG&A) chief operating officer Mike Camahort formalize the partnership between the two companies by unveiling a mock-up of the SuperFerry 12 carrying K-CPI products. The partnership agreement ensures faster and efficient delivery of K-CPI diaper, tissue and feminine care products to the provinces using WG&A's shipping fleet. WG&A was chosen by K-CPI because of its proven track record in cargo and freight delivery and its on-line cargo operations which enable clients to monitor the location of their shipments at any given time. WG&A Philippines is the largest shipping company in the country, serving 22 ports of call across the nation. It is the first and, so far, the only Filipino shipping liner to have its entire fleet certified according to the International Safety Management (ISM) Code Standard.

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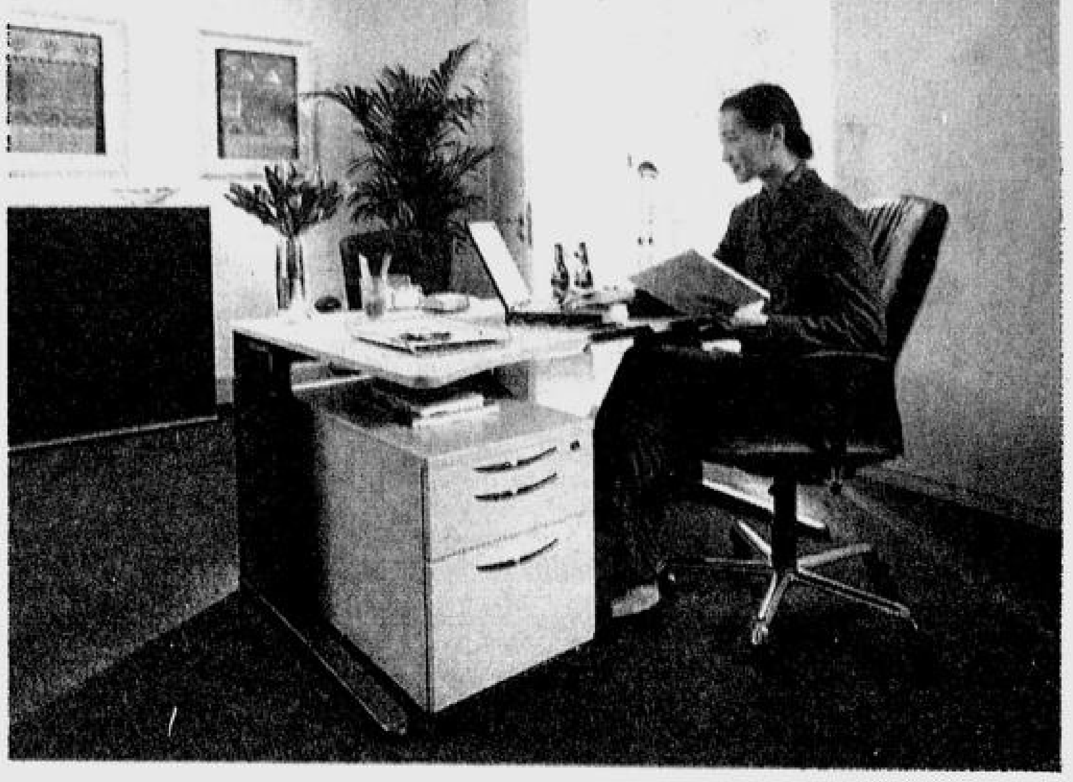
Instant Offices Worldwide

APPLE FONTANILLA, Account Manager SPROJECTS@INQUIRER.COM.PH **ARIES B. ESPINOSA**, Assistant Editor

Total office success lies in the details



BY JOEL V. NIGOS

SINCE it set up its first business center in Manila at The Enterprise Center in Makati City in February 1999, Regus, the world's largest serviced office provider, has continued to post phenomenal growth despite the country's difficult economic conditions.

The Regus business center was opened to answer the need for flexibility of most companies that don't want to sacrifice location yet are keen to find a professional working environment to meet clients.

Trixie Syling, Regus business development manager in the Philippines, says that in its close to three years of operations, Regus has attracted a wide range of clients, which includes top multinationals.

She adds that the success and increasing patronage of Regus is evident with its retention of clients and occupancy rate always exceeding its targets.

Encouraged by these results, Regus is now opening its second business center in the Philippines, at the Philamlife Tower at the heart of Makati's business and financial district.

The Philamlife office will be Regus' 23rd in nine countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The expansion, the only one in the region in the last quarter of the year, is in line with Regus' view that the country will continue to offer bright prospects in the serviced office industry.

Regus considers the Philippines as a key business location and the physical center of the Asia-Pacific region.

"There are approximately 850,000 sq. m. of grade A office space in Manila, of which serviced offices only make up less than one percent. We are optimistic this figure can grow to 5 percent in five to seven years. Regus is strongly positioned to support this growth," says Marc Townsend, Regus general manager for Southeast Asia.

Bolstering its position, Regus exemplifies the current trend in office accommodation brought about by the fast-paced development of technology, globalization and the changes in working patterns. The traditional method of renting office space by the square foot no longer reflects how many organizations operate, or the continual changes in staffing levels which most businesses experience. Changes in working patterns also mean that this discrepancy will continue to increase as more and more people work away from the traditional office environment. The flexibility offered through serviced offices, such as Regus, is in line with the new, emerging model of fast-growing corporation which can barely predict how big it will be in five years' time, let alone where its customer base will be. It is also in line with the flexibility companies need in uncertain economic times.

The new location in Philamlife is situated on the 18th floor of a 46-story tower of granite, steel and aluminum.

"We made sure that Philamlife center would answer clients' needs that were not accommodated at The Enterprise Center. There was a clamor for more open plan spaces and suite offices," relates Gladys Guevarra, Regus center manager.

The new Regus business center at Philamlife Tower occupies 2,025 sq. m. of prime office space with 230 workstations. Combined with its two floors at The Enterprise Center, it now occupies 4,325 sq. m. of office space and has workstations totalling 416.

"The new Philamlife location features raised flooring for IT/telecoms cabling, a bigger cyber café, a lounge area for clients who want to meet in a more relaxed atmosphere, four meeting rooms, one big reception area, and its own IT room," Guevarra adds.

Common language in customer service

Being a leading operator of the serviced office industry and having a worldwide presence, Regus makes sure that team members, as Regus people are called, have a common language in customer service.

Regus considers customer service as its bread and butter, and as such the company wants its team members to offer the same service a client would get anywhere else in the world. Guevarra says that its individuals are trained to always exceed client expectations and to be proactive at all times.

"All team members are trained in-house with the guidance of an accredited Regus trainer, using in-center training packs and Regus Open Learning Institute, or ROLI which is Regus' online training program," enumerates Guevarra.

She adds that team members may also be sent to the School of Excellence in the UK, Regus' in-house training institute.

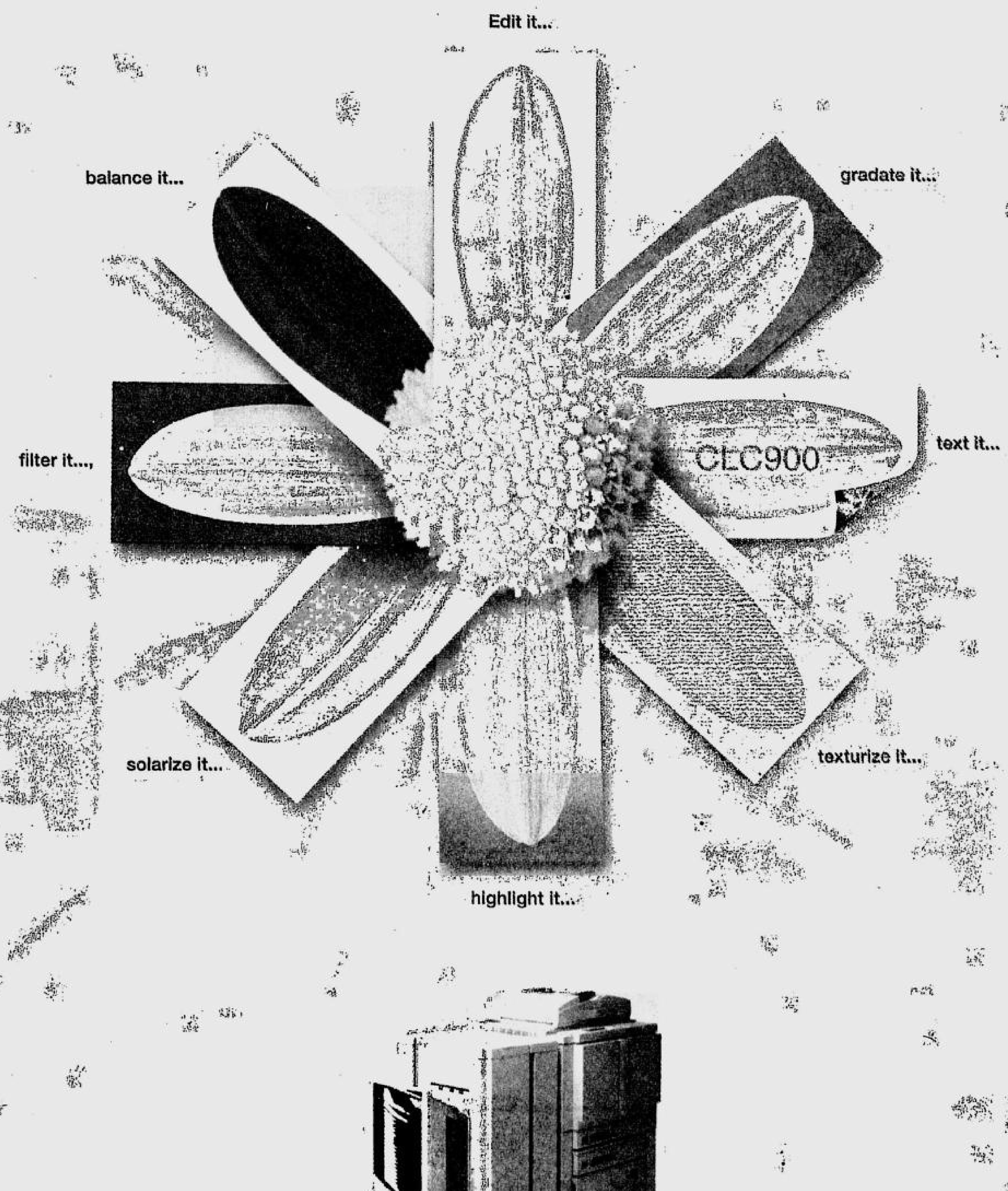
"So whether you are a customer service representative in Manila, in Los Angeles or in London, you are guaranteed to receive the very same training that each Regus team member gets all over the world," Guevarra emphasizes.

ROLI is available to all team members through RegusNet, Regus high-speed Internet access.

"This is a training resource that gives everyone (the ability) to access training 24 hours a day, seven days a week across the network," explains Guevarra.

She says that through ROLI all team members, regardless of their function or position in the company, are able to get the training they specifically need when they need it. More importantly, she adds, they are able to learn from a true Regus "Professor."

TOTAL/ C10



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Total office success lies . . .

(From page C9)

"This means that if you are a new sales person, finance manager, IT support person, center manager or customer service representative, you will learn by seeing a top Regus representative in action," relates Guevarra.

Through ROLI the potential for learning for each Regus team member is nearly limitless,. thereby bringing profound benefits to the organization as well.

Only advanced technology

Regus offers leading edge technologies in its business centers such as digital telephone systems, high-speed secure Internet access known as RegusNet, capable of providing secure connections back to corporate head offices (VPN), plus the latest in teleconferencing and video conferencing facilities.

Using Ericsson's MD110 digital telephone systems, Regus offers a range of system features such as: caller identification, enabling Regus team members to answer calls in a manner requested by their clients. Calls can be transferred internally and externally or directed to the personalized voice mail system. Teleconference calls can be made from special purpose meeting room or from clients' own digital handset. Clients are allocated direct dial numbers so that they can handle their incoming call in whatever manner they require—when necessary diverting to their mobile or to voicemail.

"We're using E1 lines, not just trunk lines, so we are able to assign IDD numbers instantly to clients. If a client asks me for four phone lines tomorrow, I can easily give the numbers. If he tells me he needs 10 fax lines tomorrow, I can now give the numbers. That easy," says Guevarra.

The use of E1 lines gives clients access to digital direct indial numbers, analogue numbers for the fax/ modem, and ISDN numbers for their data lines, almost instantly.

All workstations are equipped with multiple power points and Cat-5e data ports designed for maximum flexibility. This allows clients to create their own internal computer network so that they can share network resources such as printers, etc. It also allows Regus to give clients instant access to a digital phone handset so they are ready to work in minutes.

"It is so convenient for clients, because normally if you apply for a telephone line, it will take you a month or even more before you can get the number," Guevarra emphasizes.

She adds that having these numbers answered in the clients' company names is very important because they want to be recognized as having these offices.

"Regus videoconferencing facilities is leading edge and helps clients conduct face-to-face business meetings with many people in as many different locations without the need to travel and spend days out of the office," relates Guevarra. We're experiencing a greater interest in videoconferencing now that there is increased concern over airline travel. It is such an effective way to conduct business and can be much cheaper and less tiring than travel.

RegusNet, Regus high-speed secure Internet access negates the need for a company to set up its own Internet access. This can save Regus clients both time and money waiting for lines to be installed and paying installation charges.

TOTAL/ C11

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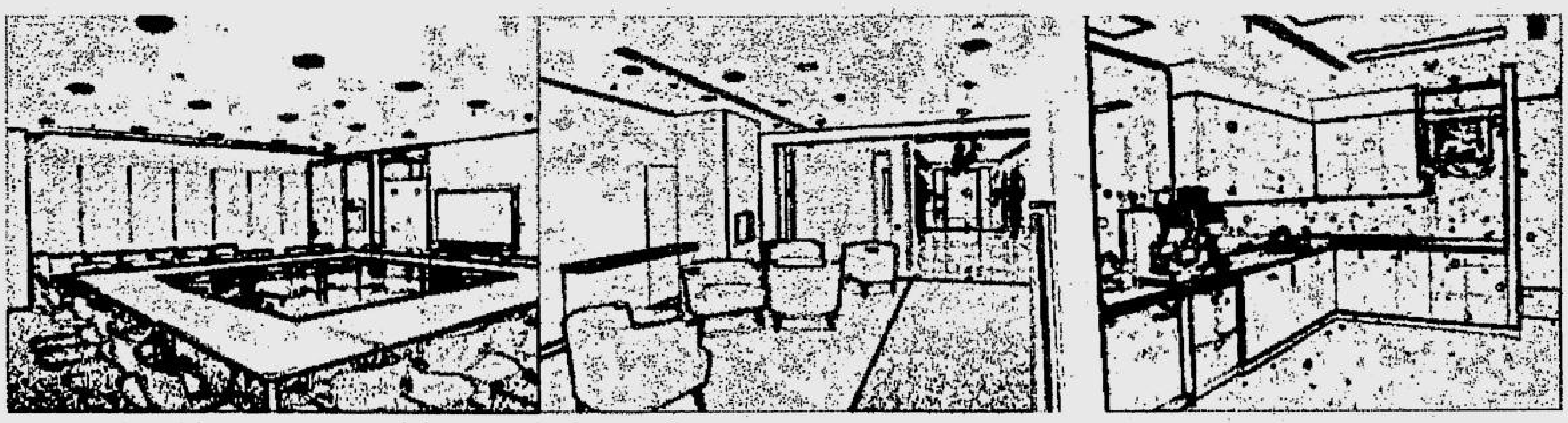

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Total office success lies . . .

(From page C10)

Regus offers very competitive ongoing rates further adding to their customers' savings.

Secure private local area networks with VLAN technology are provided, as well as secure wide area network connectivity using firewalls and virtual private network (VPN) routing.

Regus also provides in its meeting rooms standard electronic copy boards, overhead and LCD projectors, flip charts, T1 high-speed secure Internet access, Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) lines and digital phone lines. Clients can print whatever they have written on the electronic copy boards, and browsing the net using the high-speed secure Internet connection, RegusNet.

The Regus cyber café features a pushbutton coffee machine. Clients can make their own coffee in less than a minute and can even choose from cappuccino, espresso, decaffeinated or latte.

"Normally, one would go to the coffee shop to have a coffee. The pushbutton coffee machine is ideal for executives who don't want to have to leave the office to get a good quality cup of coffee," Guevarra explains.

Regus even provides high-speed iMac computers hence its name, cyber café, which clients can use while taking their lunch or snacks.

A Canon fax machine is installed at the Philamlife center for the use of clients, by simply inserting their Regus ID card.

World-class design

Regus sees to it that design guidelines are followed in all of its centers throughout the world.

"Regus is a global company with a single global brand. New centers should achieve world-class quality, globally consistent with the Regus brand and present an attractive and professional business environment," says Desiree Chan, Regus Singapore, project manager.

According to Chan, the pace of today's business world is defining the ways in which people work and relate with each other.

She adds that in an office environment, even the furniture used should adapt to change. Regus meets these needs.

"Furniture solutions from Steelcase Inc. allows for workstations to be quickly reinvented as requirements change. The furniture is based on a few simple forms that can accommodate comfort and cable management issues. Executive chairs from Vitra are designed to support the body in any position and to encourage movement. The taut backrest adapts to support the back in any position allowing the spine to retain its natural shape," explains Chan.

Chan also says that Regus believes the social aspect of work is very important.

"A study suggests that participation in relaxing or de-stressing activities during work time is a way to boost efficiency and productivity. Those who do take breaks, however, report being able to focus better, concentrate longer, and actually achieve more than their constantly busy colleagues," relates Chan.

This is why Regus includes additional facilities in their serviced offices such as cyber cafes, coffee and soft drink machines, sports equipment, shower rooms, presentation and training rooms and larger meeting rooms.

Chan says that the intention is to create an entirely new workplace experience.

"The idea is that people will think, 'I want to go to the office. It's not just work, it's part of my life," Chan emphasizes.

Regus business centers were designed by Goudie Associates, an architectural and interior design firm established in 1983 with offices in Hong Kong, Singapore and Manila.

John Goudie, regional managing director of Goudie Associates, emphasizes that design options should ensure that maximum efficiencies are achieved in the final fit-out for client operations.

"This process involves stringent selection and comparison of materials, finishes and construction methods, and rigorous attention to detail," Goudie explains.

For his part, architect Carlos de Castro of Goudie Associates Manila office says that Goudie treats each client individually to provide a tailored design.

He adds that Goudie Associates interior design solutions provide intelligent utilization of space while reflecting the client's image and operations, all under a cost-effective framework.

Ultimately, Regus keeps only one thing in mind: "while clients run their business, Regus runs their office."

About Regus

Regus offers fully furnished, staffed and equipped offices in a secure, professional working environment with the flexibility to upsize or downsize, whatever or whenever the client wants. It has over 380 business centers in 50 countries with more than 84,000 workspaces. The company was established by Mark Dixon in Brussels, Belgium, in 1989 and is listed on the New York and London Stock Exchanges. It employs over 2,800 people. Its headquarters are located at Hillswood Business Park, Chertsey in the United Kingdom. Regus clients in Manila include 3Com, Dell Computers, Novell, Nokia, Citibank, Credit Suisse First Boston, Intel, Kimberly-Clark, Lucent Technologies, MCI Worldcom, HSBC, PriceWaterhouseCoopers, Sony and Sun Life of Canada.

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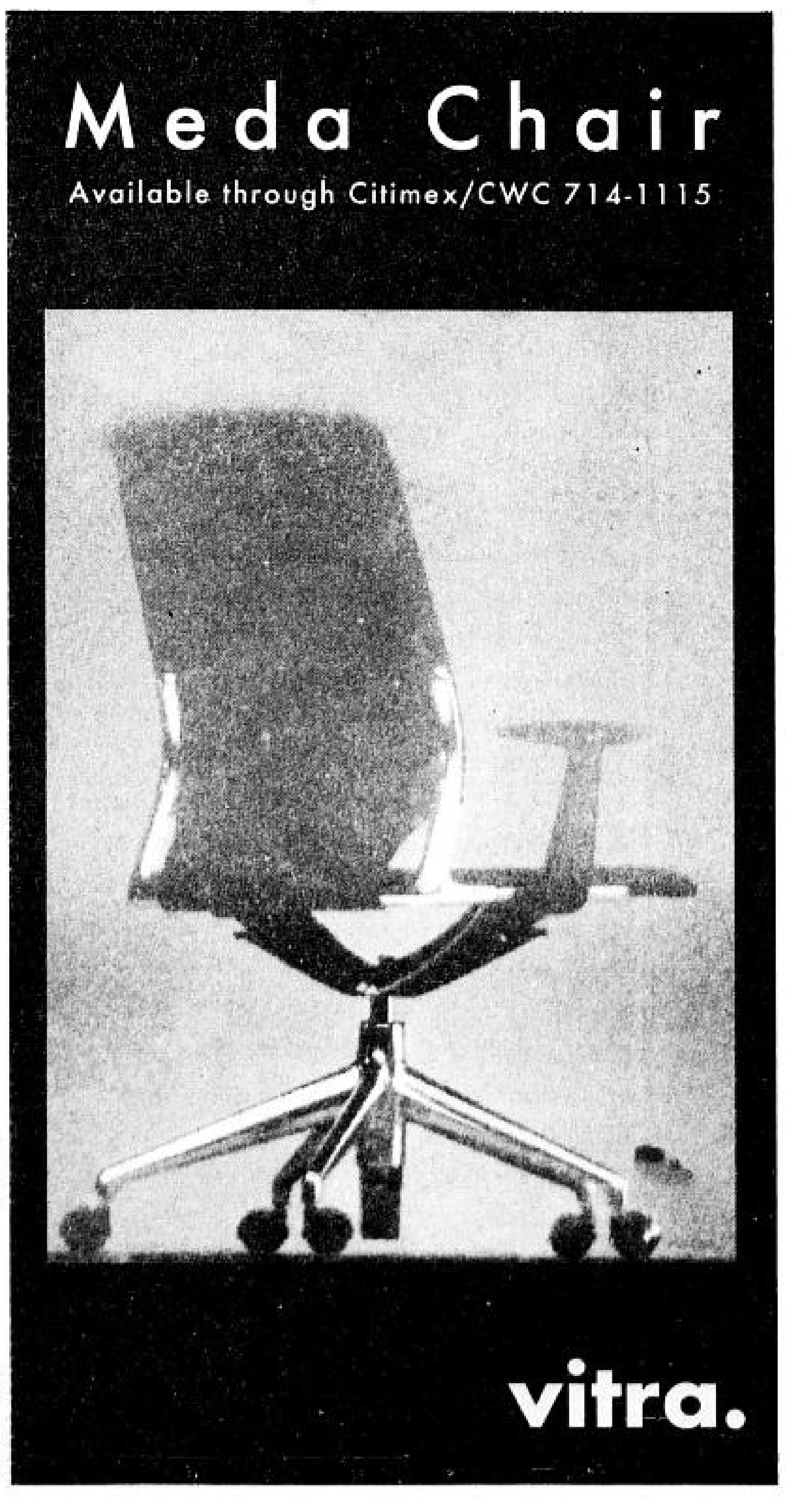
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MANILA DOCTORS HOSPITAL HONORS LOYAL EMPLOYEES

Metrobank and Metrobank Foundation chair Dr. George S.K. Ty (seventh from left), Manila Medical Services Inc. president Dr. Placido Mapa Jr. (eighth from left) and MDH administrator sister Estelle Marie Camagan, SPC (ninth from left) pose with the 25-year and 20-year service awardees of MDH during the medical institution's celebration of its 45th foundation anniversary.

Cosmic Center happenings

NEW, state-of-the-art motorcycles, big bikes and scooters made in the United States, Japan, Germany and China are available at Cosmic Center at Pasong Tamo corner Metropolitan Avenue in Makati City (beside Shopwise, fronting McDonald's in Kingswood Towers). And, until Oct. 30, Cosmic Center will hold its annual Handog Sale, with up to 75 percent off on novelty items, cellular phones and accessories, houseware and gift items.

Arnel Ignacio Halloween show

TOP comedian, actor and singer Arnel Ignacio will showcase his many talents in the "Arnel Ignacio Halloween Special" on Oct. 30 at the Bogota Lounge in Malate. Presented by Petron Gasul and Sound Image Production, the show captures Arnel's unique style of stand-up comedy. Supporting Arnel Ignacio in his show will be the J Project featuring saxophonist Jun Jun Figueroa and guitarist, musical director artist Jon Jon Castañeda. Other sponsors are the Steak Factory, Protective System Technologies, Miggy's Super Tacos and FM stations LA 105.9 and RJ 100.3. Tickets are available at the gate on the day of the show at Bogota Lounge at Pedro Gil, Malate, Manila.

Conqueror logo design tilt

ARJO Wiggins, maker of the world-renowned Conqueror paper, and local distributor Star Paper Corp. launched the 4th Conqueror Logo Design Competition, which runs from Aug. 15 to Oct. 30. The contest is a call to illustrate the inherent resiliency of the Filipino race, with the theme "The Filipino Conqueror." The contest is open to all Filipino professional artists and designers in Metro Manila. Twenty finalists will be chosen, with the top entry winning P60,000 and two creative prize awardees bringing home P15,000.

GA Yupangco annual sale

HANDOG Sale 2001, the much-anticipated annual sale of GA Yupangco, gives all the best reasons and options for you to join the mad scramble. Big discounts on musical instruments are being offered, and it will now be much easier to own that top-notch audio-video equipment. All the best names in musical instruments, pro-audio equipment and audio-video products—Yamaha, Korg, Roland, Fender, Sennheiser, Pearl, and Marshall—will be offered at great discounts. The Handog Sale 2001 runs until Oct. 30 at the Main Office Showroom at the Yupangco Building, 339 Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City and at all Yamaha Music Stores and Perfect Pitch stores. For details, call 899-9595 or e-mail info@yupangco.com or visit www.yupangco.com.

Informatics seminar series

SINGAPORE-BASED IT institution Informatics, the world leader in lifelong learning services, has recently formed a strategic alliance with world-renowned University of California-Berkeley Extension (UCBE) to conduct its executive seminar series on e-Business and Digital Telecommunications in Asia for the first time. The seminar series will be conducted in 10 Asian countries. The Philippine series, which will be held at the Manila Peninsula, will kick off Nov. 12 and end on April 2, 2002. Interested parties are encouraged to register online at www.informaticsgroup.com/ucbe, or call 727-7407, or e-mail ucbeseminar@informatics.net.ph.

Clairelynn Uy: cross dresser

THE DE LA SALLE University Art Gallery is currently featuring visual artist Clairelynn Uy's unusual exhibition of weaving, but with a twist. Using unconventional material, Clairelynn, who recently had an exhibition at the CCP, stretches the notion of weaving. Some of her pieces make use of banana barks, ropes, paper twine, and even dried grass. The textures and grain of the finished works make for a delightfully subtle study in granulation and surface contours. "Cross dresser" refers to Clairelynn's "crossing over" to a medium and material far removed from her first love—painting. The "Cross Dresser" exhibit runs until Oct. 30.

SM-Citibank Appliance Fiesta ongoing

ARMED with your Citibank credit card, hurry and visit the SM Megatrade Hall at the 5th Level of SM Megamall from now until Oct. 30 for the best appliance deals. The widest range of appliances—from kitchen gadgets to entertainment facilities—await the Citibank credit card shopper. Zero-interest offers on selected appliances are available for installment terms of six and 12 months. You can also visit the SM Appliance Centers at all SM branches for reduced PayLite interest rates for the duration of the promo. For more details, call the 24-hour Citiphone at 995-9999 in Metro Manila, 234-9999 in Metro Cebu, 1-800-10-995-9999 in other provinces.

Tales from the 'Haunted Stadium'

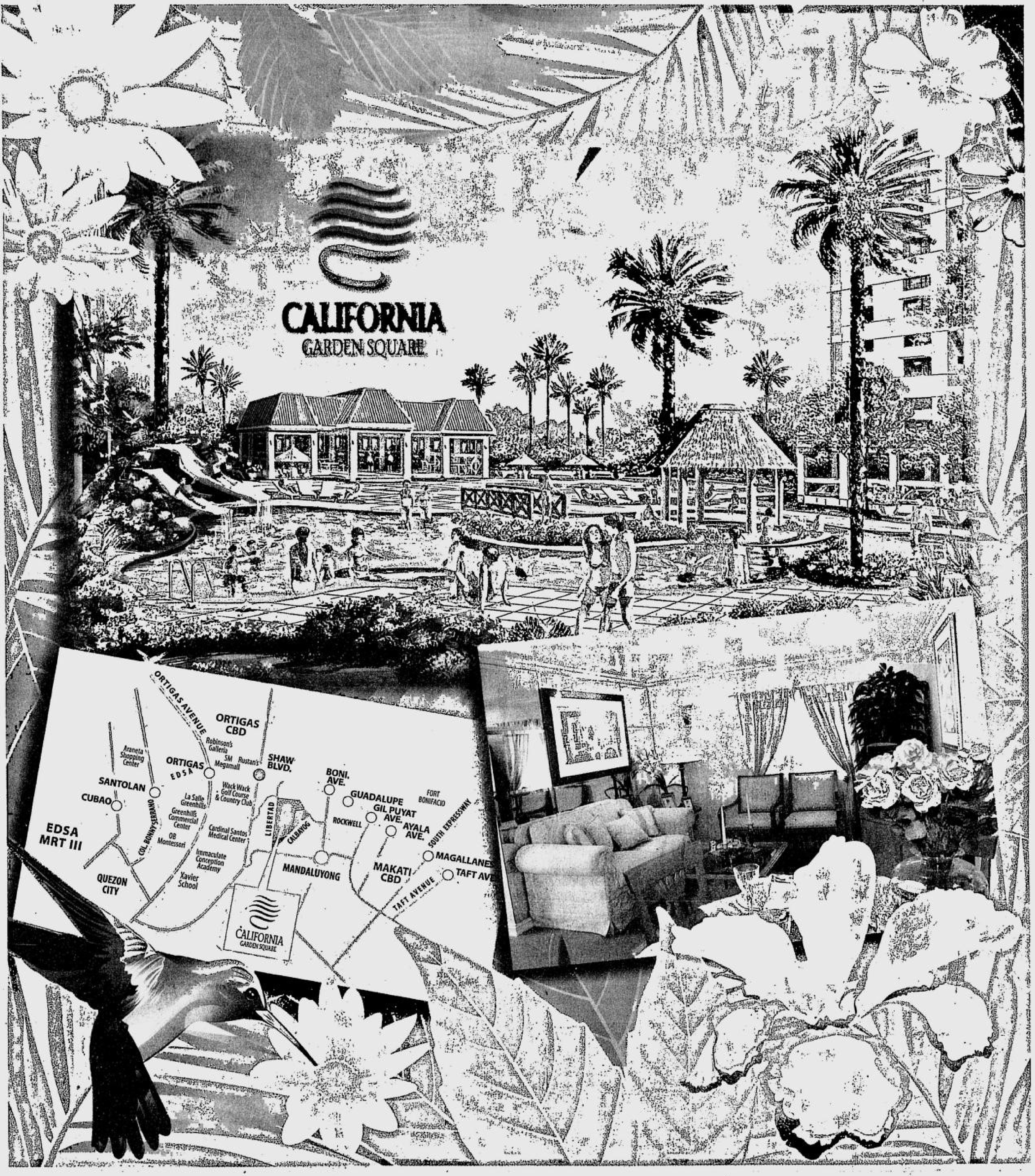
A UNIQUE Halloween feature happens on Oct. 31, Wednesday, at the National Sports Grill as it virtually transforms into a haunted stadium with all the Halloween motifs. Have a Halloween treat from two bands—the Toy Symphony and The Company. And another treat is NSG's Beer Bucket Special for as low as P275 on any five beer types. "Tales from the Haunted Stadium" is presented by Gavel Entertainment. NSG is located at the third level of Greenbelt Mall in Makati. For reservations, call 812-9661.

Asiatrust Bank holiday sched

ALL of Asiatrust Bank's branches will be open on Oct. 31 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., except for the mall branches (Tutuban Center Mall, Nova Plaza Mall, Ever-Commonwealth and Pamplona), which will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Selected Asiatrust Bank branches will be open on Saturday, Nov. 3, including Alabang, Antipolo, Bacoor, Binondo, Greenbelt, Las Piñas, Masinag, Novaliches and Roosevelt from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Banawe 12 noon to 5 p.m.; Ever-Commonwealth and Nova Plaza Mall 12 noon to 7 p.m.; Ever-Pamplona 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and Tutuban Center Mall 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The following mall branches will also be open on Sunday, Nov. 4: Ever-Commonwealth and Nova Plaza Mall (12 noon to 7 p.m.); and Tutuban Center Mall (1 p.m. to 5 p.m.). For inquiries, call 373-4101, 924-5716 or 924-5692-93.

Octo 'beer' fest at Island Cove

CELEBRATE a month-long beer festival this October at Island Cove Resort and Leisure Park in Binakayan, Kawit, Cavite. Enjoy ice-cold San Miguel Draft Beer for only P30 per mug at selected Island Cove outlets. Unwind at Purple Ostrich Bar Café. Enjoy bowling and billiards at the Sportscove. Bring your friends and sign to your hearts' delight at the Island Songs KTV. What better way to relax than with a glass of beer and freshly caught fish at the Fishing Village. Take a dip at the Oceania Kiosk. For more details, visit Island Cove Resort and Leisure Park, or call (046) 434-0210, the Makati Sales Office at (02) 810-3740. Toll-free numbers are 810-3718/32/64 and 810-5638. Visit www.islandcovephil.com or e-mail islacove~info.com.ph.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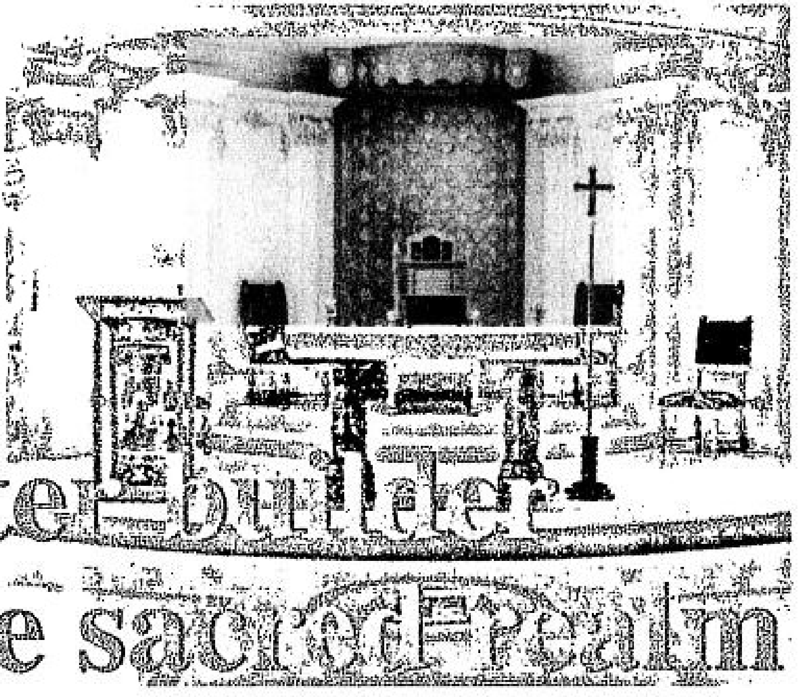
LIFESTYLE

CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor ▪ LITO B. ZULUETA, Subsection Editor

Arts Design

Tony S. Adriano is putting a new sheen and spirit in ecclesiastical design

Master-builder of the sacred realm



CHAPEL OF HIS EMINENCE JAIME CARDINAL SIN The altar is of Baroque combined with Empire period-gilded in 23k gold leaf. The decorative wall panelings are Corinthian columns gilded in 23k gold with ivory finish to give the effect of regalness. On the floor, notice the insignia of the Archbishop of Manila done in mosaic designs and boarders.

BY JOSEPHINE DARANG

EVEN as a college student taking up fine arts at the University of Sto. Tomas, Antonio So Adriano was already helping his father, the late Avelino Adriano, design pieces of furniture. The shop and window display faced A. Mabini Street in Ermita where Tony also grew up. But his closeness to the Nuestra Señora de Guia enthroned in Ermita Church near Tony's house prepared him for what was to be his future work. He was a sacristan and in later years the *recamadero* of the image and president of the parish pastoral council now.

When his father passed away, Tony, through hard work and with the help of his mother, Rosario So Adriano, was able to expand the business of making furniture. In 1986 he transferred offices to their building at the corner of Edsa and Quingua, which his parents had built.

All throughout, his friend and partner, Noli Viridico, helped him run the workshop in Sucat. His first cousin, Albert Asistio, 82, continues to offer advice up to this day.

In between making furniture for clients, Tony went full blast into making church interiors that included the main altar, side altars and even liturgical vestments. At least 20 church interiors have been designed by Adriano.

The chapel at Villa San Miguel

The altar at the chapel in Villa San Miguel, where Cardinal Jaime Sin says Mass, is cast in baroque. It is endowed with Empire period accents and gilded with 23k gold leaf. The decorative wall paneling are of Corinthian column design gilded in 23k gold leaf with ivory finish. On the floor in front of the altar is the insignia of the Archbishop of Manila done in mosaic design and borders.

'Pahalik' at the Ermita Church

Adriano completely renovated the main altar of the Nuestra Señora de Guia Parish. Also in baroque design, the altar design complements the niche of the Virgin. Adriano, who himself brings down the image during the fiesta Novenas in May, intends to build a *pahalik* at the back of the image and a museum below.

When Msgr. Jerome Reyes became parish

MASTER/ p.D4

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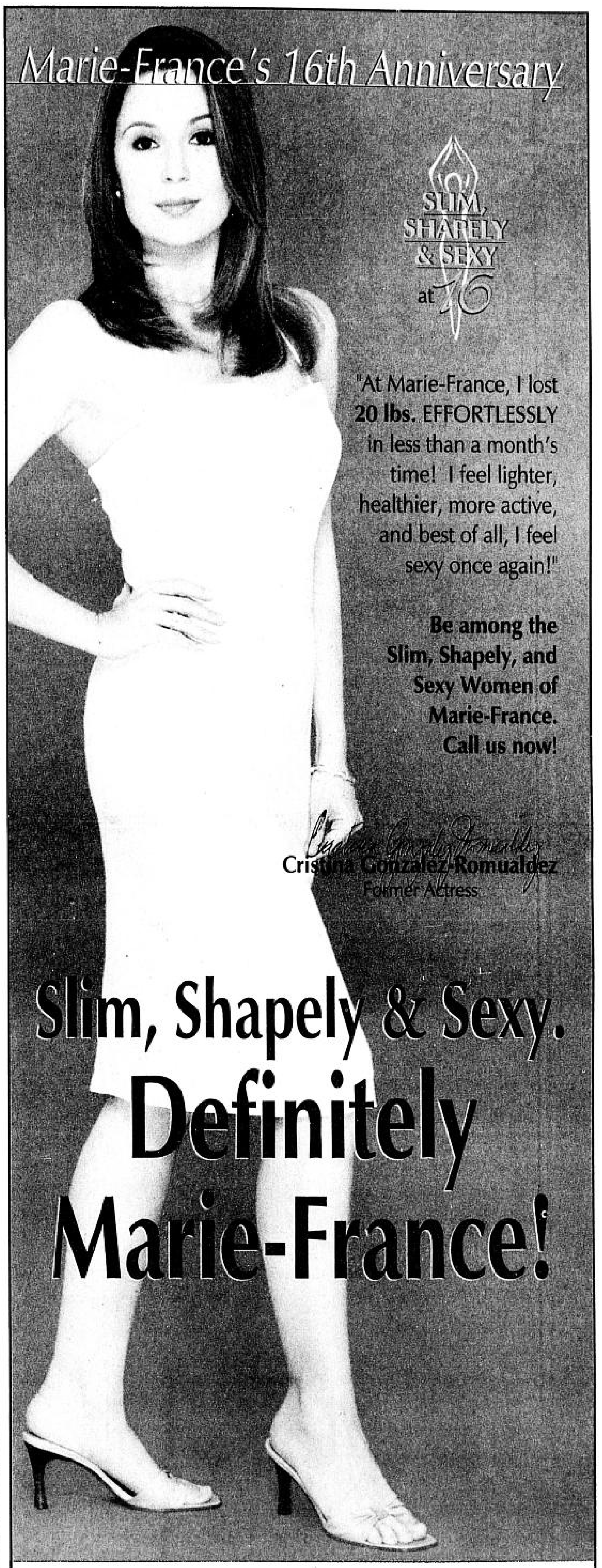
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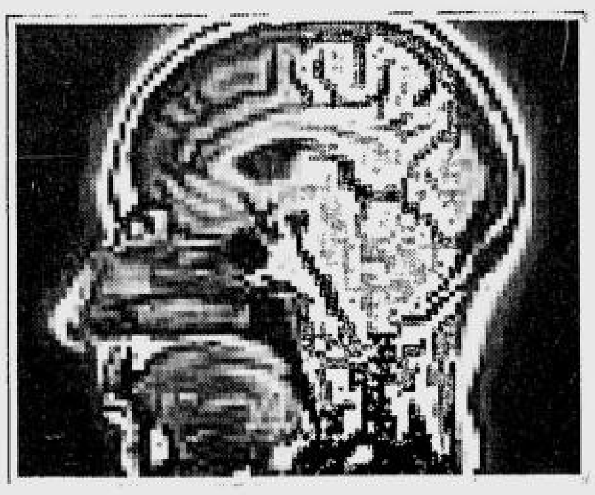

Losing Weight

Fat Facts: Fat is the main culprit in Obesity.

Obesity is a Chronic Disease

If you were an overweight kid, chuckles and giggles would be the order of the day. Everyone thought you were really cute. Now that you're an adult, it just isn't funny anymore. Because obesity is associated with a high number of diseases : high blood pressure, diabetes, high cholesterol and triglyceride levels, cancer, heart disease, stroke, infertility, gout, sleep apnea and a whole lot more.

Still laughing?

Good News for Modern Man: Lipase Inhibitors

You know that obesity is caused by the excessive intake of dietary fat. Now here's the good news, and it's called *lipase inhibitors*. These *lipase inhibitors* block the absorption of dietary fat, helping weight reduction and reducing the risks from fat- and obesity-associated diseases. You can even get additional benefits like improvement in blood pressure especially if you are hypertensive, better sugar control if you are diabetic and improved blood cholesterol or lipid levels. *Lipase inhibitors* provide you a healthier chance to effectively fight fat. It also helps you adopt healthier eating habits. And since *lipase inhibitors* are a non-systemic weight loss medication, acting only on the digestive system, your brain isn't affected. Read on and find out why this is important.

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Centrally acting drugs stimulate the *brain* to diminish a person's appetite. Centrally-acting, meaning they affect the central nervous system (*the brain*).

Centrally acting drugs do little or nothing to help people change their eating habits and lifestyle. When you stop taking the drug, your weight is quickly regained. You can experience the known side effects such as high blood pressure, dryness of mouth, palpitation, increase in heart rate, irritability and even inability to sleep at night.

To Change Your Life, See Your Doctor Today

With *lipase inhibitors*, you may experience oily discharge, which can be controlled. This is in fact a good sign that the *lipase inhibitor* works. It means that you are now losing 30% of your fat intake! Consult your doctor now or call the Obesity Fatline Number for advice on how to combat obesity the healthy, safe and effective way. Call now and avail of a BMI (body mass index) calculator absolutely *FREE*.

Remember, don't let the battle against obesity get into your head.

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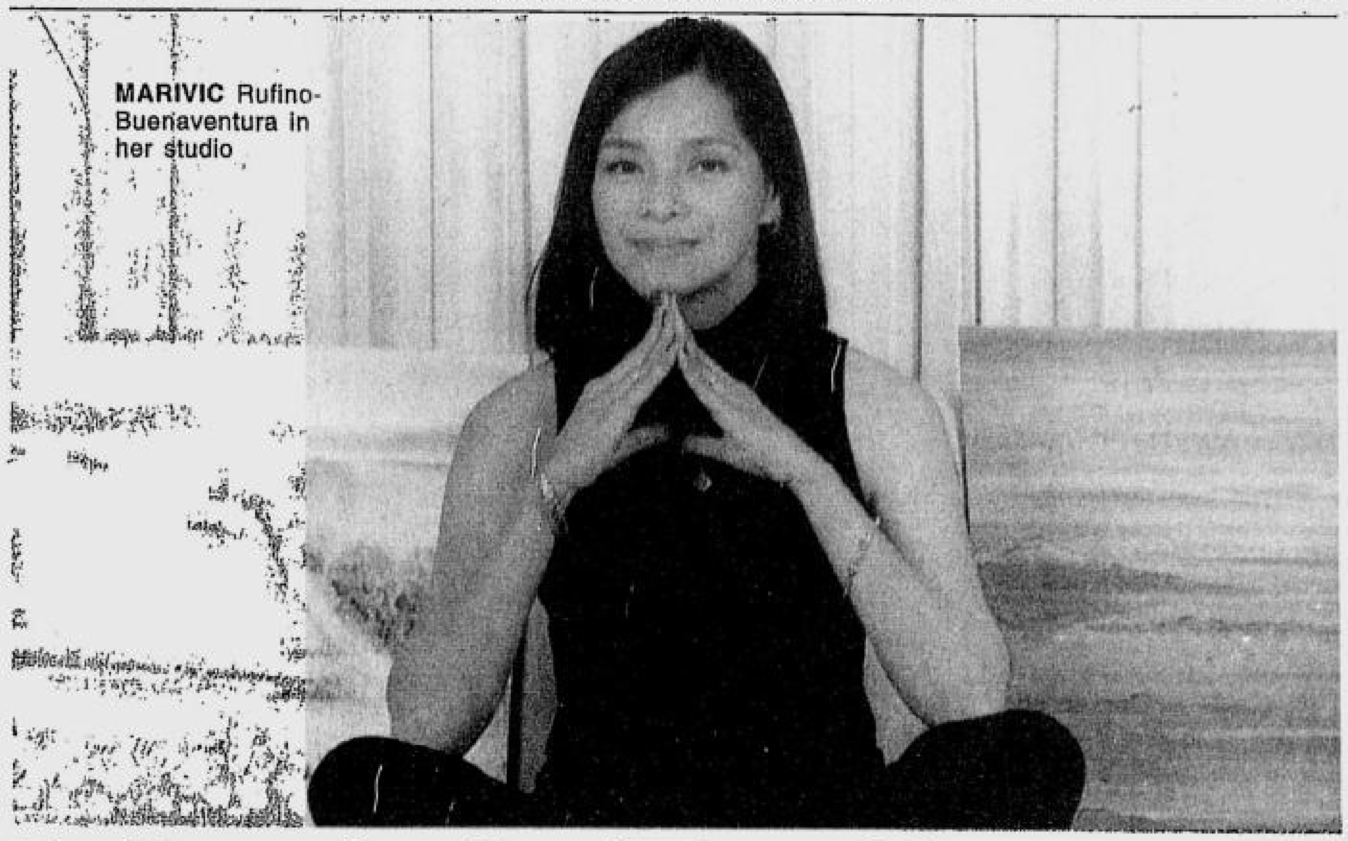


MARIVIC Rufino-Buenaventura in her studio

Marivic Rufino at the crossroads

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

THE YEAR 2001 has been a year of changes for artist and businesswoman Maria Victoria Rufino-Buenaventura.

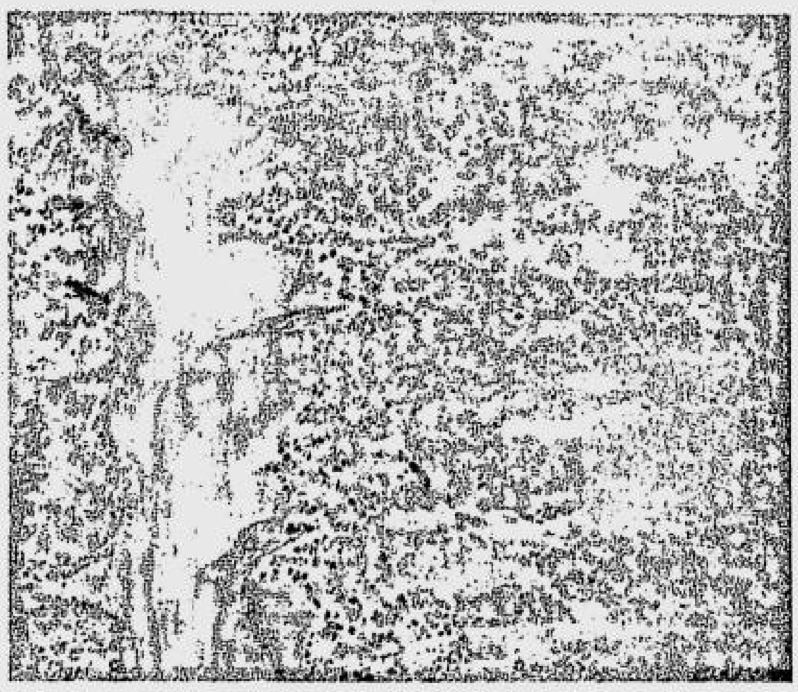
After many years of companionship, she has finally made the plunge and married Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas governor Rafael Buenaventura. She also had to deal with a loss in her family and adjust to the change in homes and in status.

It has been a year of contrasts—happiness and sadness—and these have inevitably put an indelible mark on her art.

These changes can be seen in her forthcoming 12th solo exhibit slated for Nov. 13-19 at the Peninsula Manila that focuses on nature but reveals more of her spiritual side. She will show 31 works on paper and a surprise new facet—soft art such as paint on fabric.

She aptly named it "Dreamscapes 2001: Inner Vision" to reflect the evolution of her inner journey. She says it is a way to show the viewer a glimpse of a tranquil inner world she sees in her dreams, quite

MARIVIC/ p.D5



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3. The raffle will be held on November 7, 2001 at 1605 Jollibee Plaza, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, 1600 Metro Manila.
4. Winners will be drawn at the raffle in the presence of a BFAD representative for the following corresponding prizes:
   - Consolation Prize : 10 winners get 1 glass turbo blender each
   - THIRD PRIZE : 5 winners get 1 microwave oven each
   - SECOND PRIZE : 3 winners get 1 range oven each
   - GRAND PRIZE : 1 winner get a Kitchen Showcase (including 1 refrigerator, 1 range oven, 1 microwave oven, 1 blender, and 1 coffeemaker)
5. A winner's name picked more than once will qualify this same winner to the prize of higher value. Another name will be drawn for the discarded prize.
6. Winners will be notified by telegram or registered mail. Their names will also appear in a congratulatory or announcement ad in the Philippine Daily Inquirer, the Philippine Star and Manila Bulletin on November 19, 2001.
7. Winners may claim their respective prizes after the presentation of an identification material (office or school ID, driver's license, birth certificate, baptismal certificate, etc.) at Teope Commercial, Pasig City (see complete address above in item number 2). Prizes not claimed within 60 days from receipt of sent telegrams or registered mails will be forfeited in favor of Teope Commercial, Philippine exclusive distributor of Sue Bee/Aunt Sue Honey, subject to the approval of the BFAD.
8. All employees of Teope Commercial (Philippine exclusive distributor of Sue Bee/Aunt Sue Honey), its suppliers, and its ad agency Masterminds Asia Communications, along with their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity/affinity, are disqualified from joining this promo.

* Items shown are not the actual prizes.

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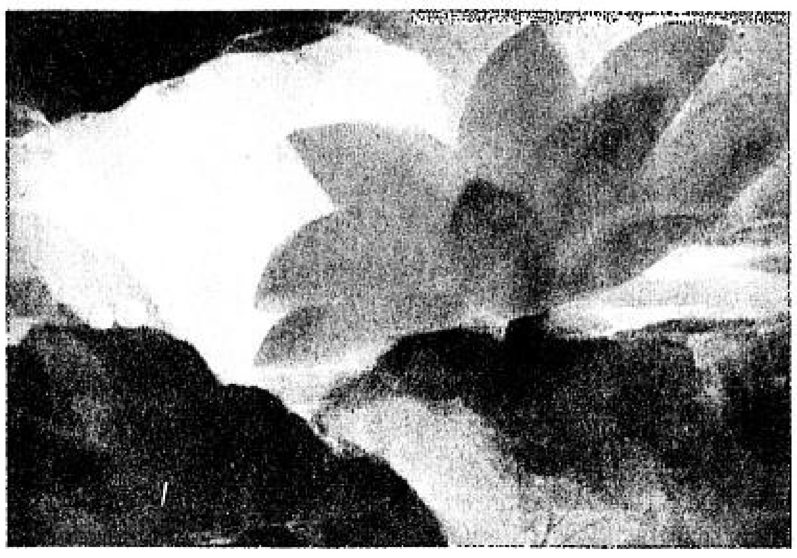
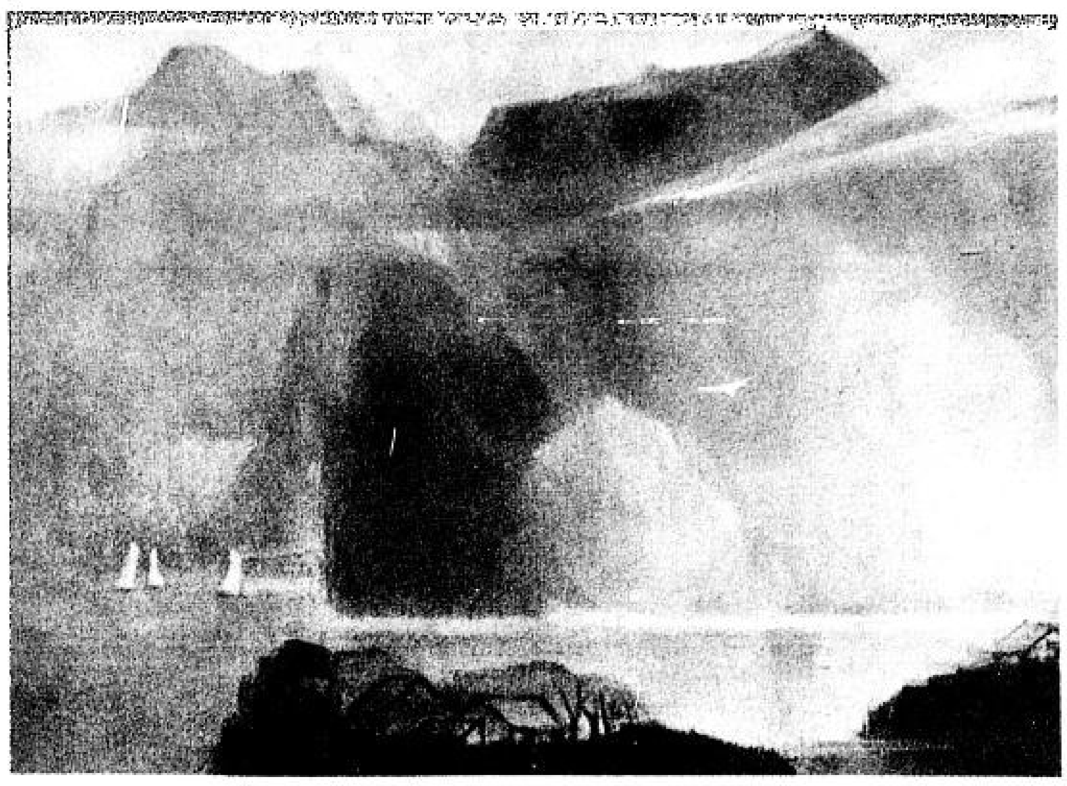
JAMES ONGLEPHO

The heart of a gentleman



"LOTUS 2001-32," oil on canvas



"THE SONG of Life 2001-58," oil on canvas

Lotus is different. You have orchids and gumamelas at home that you water every day, making sure it grows well. But look at the lotus. We see them at the dirtiest places in rivers full of trash. Its surroundings may be dirty and hardly taken care of, but the lotus itself is clean and this represents the heart of a gentleman.

—James Onglepho

INTERVIEW BY SHERLENE MICHELLE CO AND FRANCES LORRAINE HAW

SPENDING one morning with artist James Onglepho gave us an opportunity to see a glimpse of his life as an artist and as a Chinese-Filipino, who, like our ancestors, grew up and did things the hard way here in the Philippines.

"What can you say about my paintings?" Onglepho greeted us. No words could describe the admiration we have for this artist whom we have heard so much. Onglepho's main subjects are landscapes and lotuses. Showing us a landscape of China, he says, "By looking at it you are reminded of your hometown."

From humble beginnings, the artist worked his way up through hard work. He is very grateful to have had such mentors as National Artist Victorio Edades, his professor at the School of Fine Arts of the University of Santo Tomas, and Gabriel Custodio, from whom he got tutorials.

How did your interest in art begin? Did you have any difficulty?

I became interested in painting in elementary school. However, my environment didn't allow me to learn painting that early. In 1954, three years after I got married, my dream finally came true. I studied painting at the University of Santo Tomas School of Fine Arts. *Noong* 1958, *tumigil ako at nagturo.* Due to time constraints I became a Sunday painter. Of course, I encountered hardships. But becoming an artist was a matter of choice, a decision that really made me pursue this career.

What medium do you use?

I have used watercolor, pastel and Chinese ink, *pero ang pinakagusto ko ay* oil.

Where do you get your inspiration?

Para sa isang professional painter I really don't have to wait for inspiration. Every time I sit in front of my easel with my music on and my oil colors in front of me, I can paint whatever I feel like painting. Art creation is a kind of spiritual activity. If you know where to look, inspiration is never far behind.

What are your subjects for painting and why?

In my four years at the UST School of Fine Arts under Prof. Victorio Edades, I learned life sketching, life drawing and life painting. Most of the time I did life painting. I even joined the on-the-spot life painting art competition in school and won first honorable mention. I have practiced doing portraits and also joined nude painting sessions. But I realized that in life painting, you are there to express the form of the model as closely as you can. You're not really free.

After I left school I painted mostly landscapes and lotuses. In 1989, I visited the Yellow Mountain (Hwang-Shan) in China for the first time, and again in 1992. Both times I was simply awed by its beauty. Everything looked perfect. I believe it has played a big part in my landscape paintings. Its atmosphere was just perfect. Yet I paint using my imagination as I remembered the image and how I felt then, trying not to produce an exact copy. I feel I can always change the color, the shape and the composition. I know I will be surprised in the end unlike in life painting where you are expected to produce a likeness. Still I can never tell. I might one day do a show on life painting.

Meanwhile, lotus is a symbol of Buddhism. Her character is high refinement and great purity. She grows in dirty environments, but never seems to get dirty. I paint the lotus not because it is a favorite subject matter in Chinese painting but because of my emotion toward it.

I am a Filipino painter influenced by the Chinese culture. I really feel richer by welcoming both my Chinese heritage and the Western practice to my art.

Painters differ in styles and techniques. How would you describe your style?

I use glazing because I like the colors of my painting to be transparent, which is one way of expressing my feelings. Through my painting I create the realm of the poem and the realm of music. I create my composition using the viewpoint of a poet as he observes the landscapes of the world. Artistic conception is the life of a landscape painting. It is also the expression of one's thoughts and emotions

To develop one's style, one must really concentrate and study hard. Reading can also be a source of imagery for painting. An American artist once said, "Look at a million paintings and paint a thousand paintings and then you'll know." You'll find that the more you paint, the more insight you'll gain into what constitutes good artwork.

What makes your landscapes different then?

In my landscape paintings you can feel the atmosphere of Chinese painting. I use the "multiple vanishing point" perspective and exaggeration of form. I paint as I please with the rising and falling of form creating a vast expanse of momentum.

Like a poet I paint what I feel expressing the inner beauty of my subject matter and the spirit of the union of nature and man. When I paint the mountain, I'm not only painting its surface form, but also abstract shapes to express the feeling of light falling on the mountain.

Each painting is a new experience. I find myself in a state of mingling with the outside world even if I'm painting in the studio. Working in the studio gives me more freedom and more opportunities to develop ideas—my realms of creation and personification. British great master J.M.W. Turner (1775-1851) produced his masterpieces in his studio.

How do you start your masterpiece? Do you need to be at the right moment at the right place to do it?

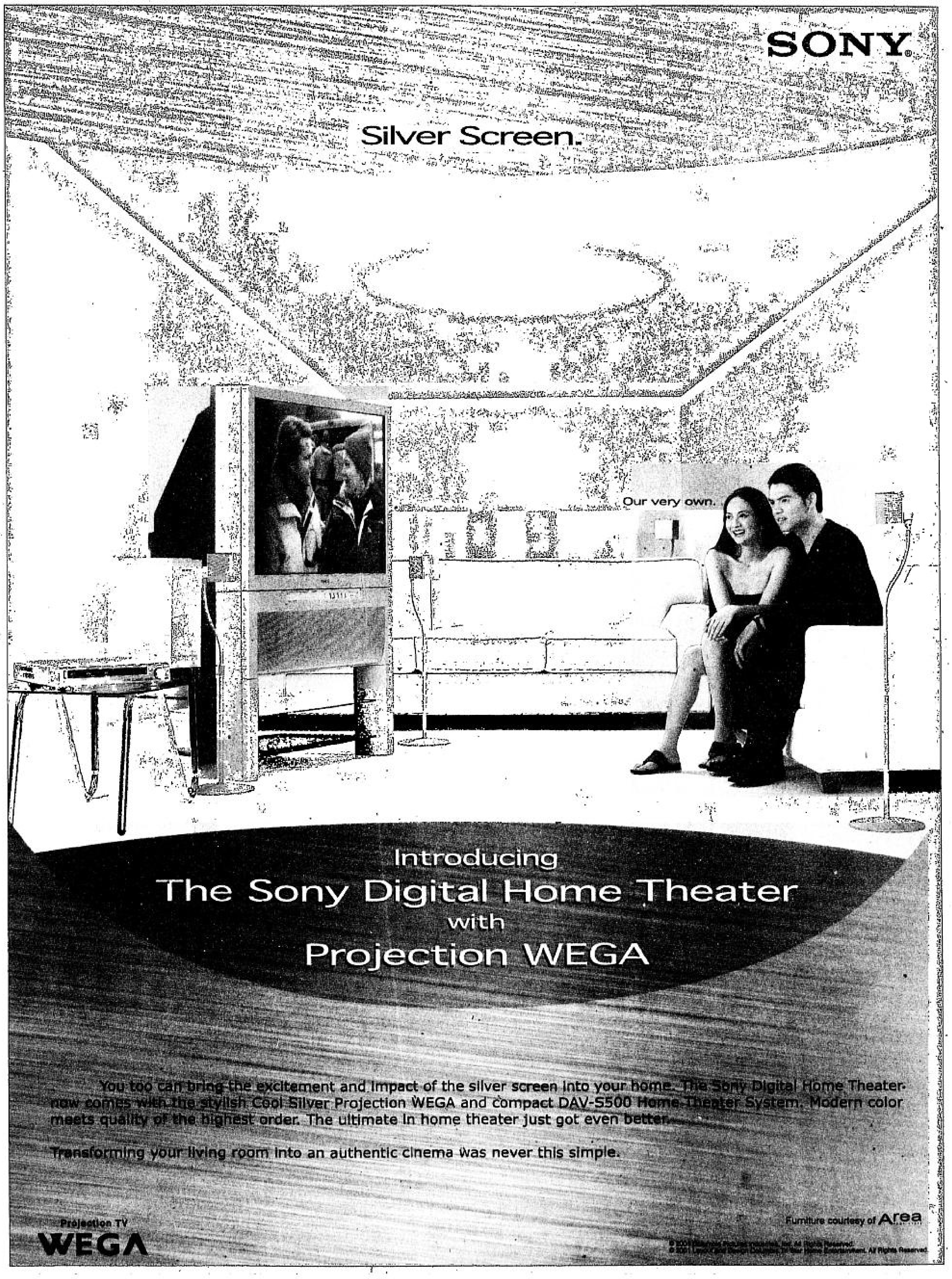
After painting for nearly 50 years, I still haven't painted my masterpiece. Fifteen years ago I painted a huge 120"x140" mural. I liked what I saw. *Masaya ako,* but I still don't consider it as my masterpiece. For me one must keep on striving and improving. I can be at my studio and be thoroughly happy with my art materials. But I still have to continue working hard and improving what I do.

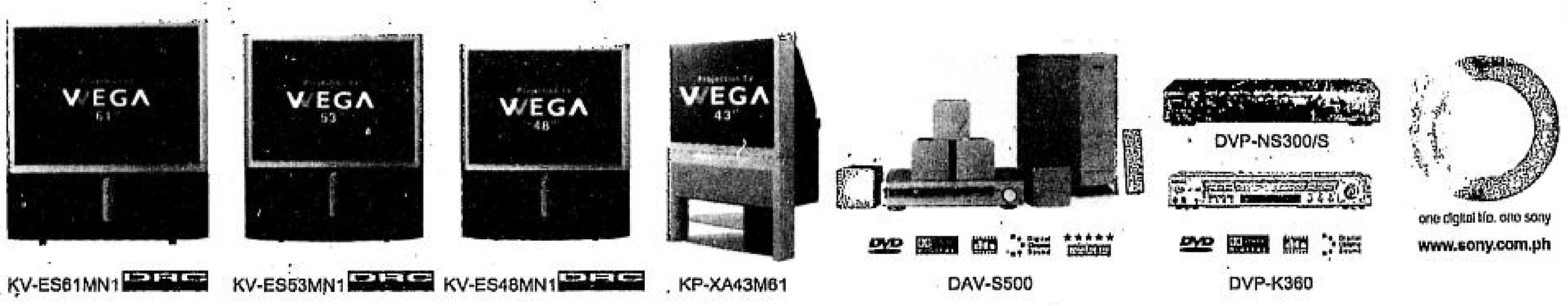
Anytime I feel like painting is the right moment for me. I always keep in mind to learn like a beginner. To strive to improve not only through constant practice but also to feed the mind with lots of ideas. *Pagkatapos magpinta, nagbabasa naman ako.*

Do you need formal education on painting to be a good painter?

With a formal education in painting, one can learn the basic steps, such as sketching, drawing and painting. But you can also have a good and complete foundation without any formal education. *Kung* talented *ka talaga.* For instance, Malang, a good friend of

THE HEART/ p.D5





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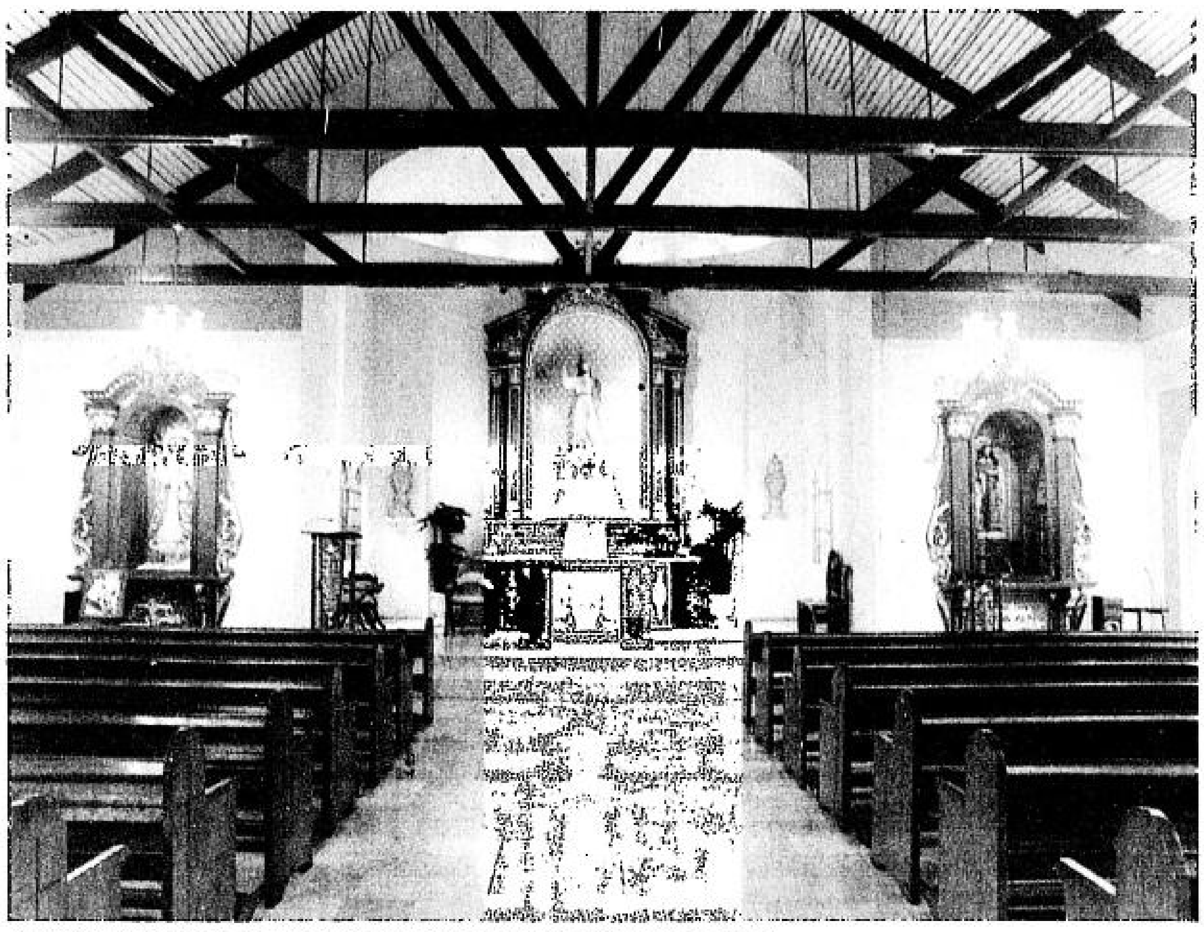
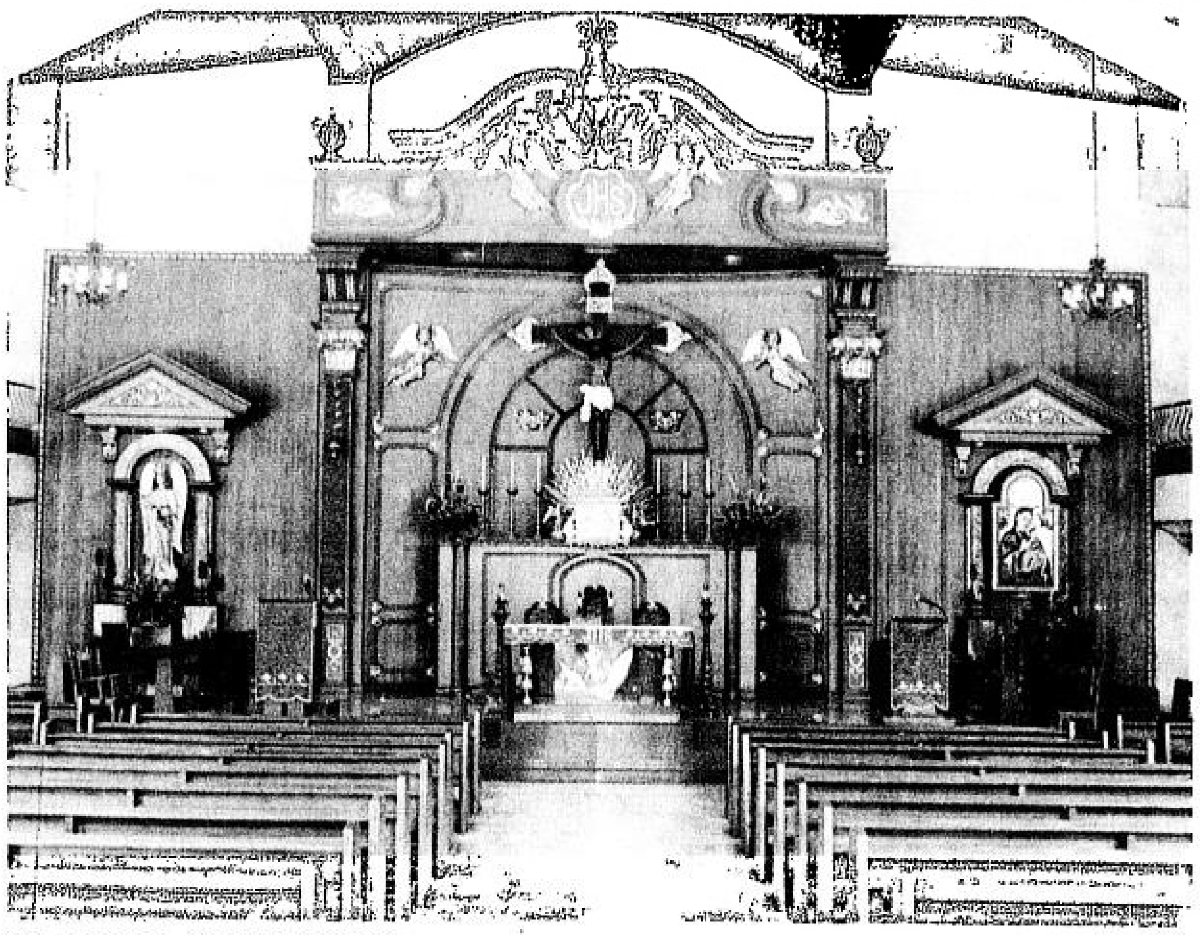


CHAPEL OF THE PAMANTASAN NG LUNGSOD NG MAYNILA
The altar niches are Corinthian columns complemented by period style of scrolls and ancient acanthus leaves to produce the flowing effect of the overall design and to give softness to the architectural columns. The niches are individually lighted by halogen lights with lighting control so as not to give a glaring effect to the eye.



ST. GABRIEL PARISH CHURCH
The altar background and niches are of simple lines of arcaitraves with fivial motifs at the tip of the altar. Corinthian columns with architectural panelings give a brooding feeling to the interiors. The cross and the tabernacle are the focal points of the interiors.

Master builder of the sacred realm

(From page D1)

priest four years ago, he immediately had the 15 Mysteries of the Rosary painted on the ceiling of the church. This small place of worship, which is also the shrine of the oldest Marian image in the Philippines, has become a favorite church of families who come for Sunday Masses.

Antipolo church altar renovated

These days, there's something new at the famous shrine of Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage in Antipolo. Whereas in the past one could hardly see the image of the Virgin because of the structure of the niche containing her, today the image is shown in full. Here the new niche designed by Adriano amply exposes her to devotees.

The niche of the Virgin is encased in a nonreflective glass that gives a better view of her. The niche interiors are complemented with decorative paneling. The ceiling bears a rosette design. The architectural scrolls are placed in the center with the logo "Virgo Maria."

San Rafael Parish Church in Navotas

To give an overall effect of Ionic architectural columns, Adriano complemented the design with a shell motif at the tips of the niches, together with scrolls of decorative carvings.

The niches standing at the main altar of San Rafael Church in Navotas are interesting cases of study. Elaborate and ornate, the niches provide an interesting study for those interested in religious art.

Santuario de San Jose in Greenhills

The altar at the Santuario de San Jose in Greenhills is a combination of baroque and regency period designs. The altar table is of marquetry style made of different kinds of wood such as narra, oak and mahogany. It's done in natural cherry finish complemented with 23k gold and silver motif.

Sto. Niño Chapel at Violago Compound

For a small chapel, the Sto. Niño Chapel at the Violago Compound in Quezon City stands out. The image of the Nombre is enshrined in the main altar made of Corinthian and Ionic columns. With acanthus leaves motif in carvings, scrolls and salamander design taken from the Louis XIV period, the altar is a joy to behold.

Sunday Masses are held here and the Congregacion del Santissimo Nombre del Niño Jesus, which runs the chapel, holds Monday Masses and Sto. Niño novenas.

Chapel of the Pamantasang Lungsod ng Maynila

The students of Pamantasang Lungsod ng Maynila must be truly inspired when they attend Mass at the chapel of their school. Efforts have been made by the Çofradia de la Inmaculada Concepcion in making the chapel a beautiful place of worship. The main altar bears the image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, while the side altar on the left carries the image of the Immaculate Conception and on the right is the image of St. Joseph.

The altar niches are of Corinthian columns complemented with period styles of scrolls and ancient acanthus leaves design that produce a flowing effect. The niches are indirectly lighted by halogen lights.

Carmel Church in New Manila

The niche bearing the image of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in the New Manila church is new. The columns are of various period styles. The giant scroll design on the sides soften the architectural structure. Angels at the base of the image seem to lift it up.

Other church interiors designed and done by Adriano include that of Nuestra Señora del Rosario Parish in Rosario, Cavite; Cathedral of St. Francis Xavier in Nasugbu, Batangas; St. Gabriel Parish in Caloocan; Most Holy Trinity Parish in Balic-Balic, Sampaloc; St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Marilao, Bulacan; Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Makati; and the Holy Name of the Infant Jesus Chapel in Canyon Woods Resort in Laurel, Batangas.

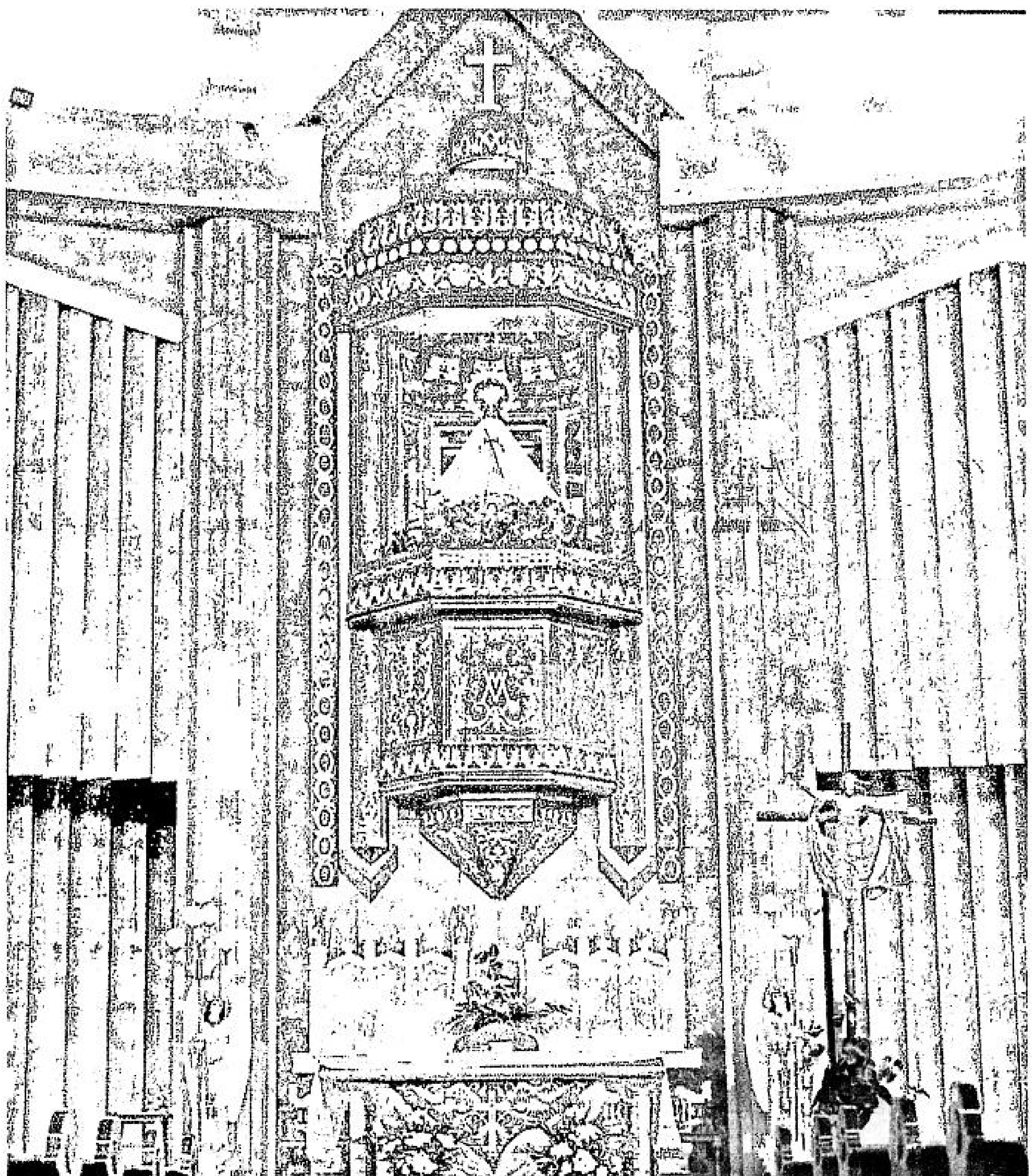
Meticulous

Adriano's father, who did the interiors of the Manila Cathedral in the 1960s, taught him to pay attention to every detail when executing design. So much so that every carving on an altar table or niche is in place.

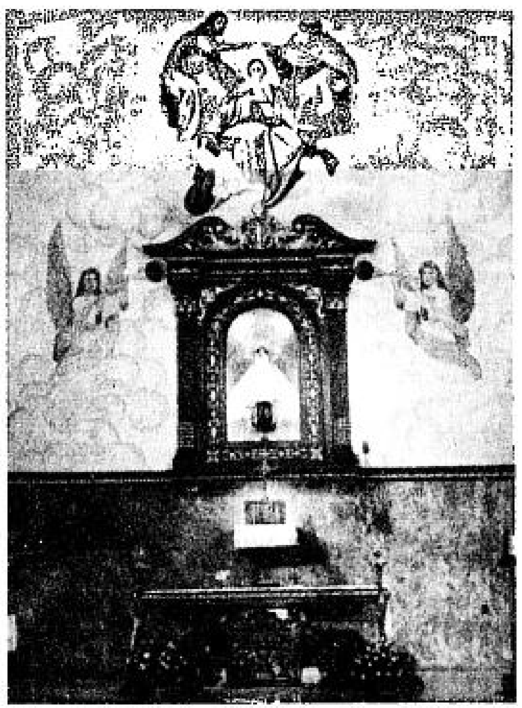
After majoring in interior design at the UST, Adriano took up further studies in Paris. Subsequently, he was made consultant in furniture design by the United Nations Development Program.

Adriano considers church designing it his life work, and he intends to make more church interiors and expand to the making of liturgical vestments.

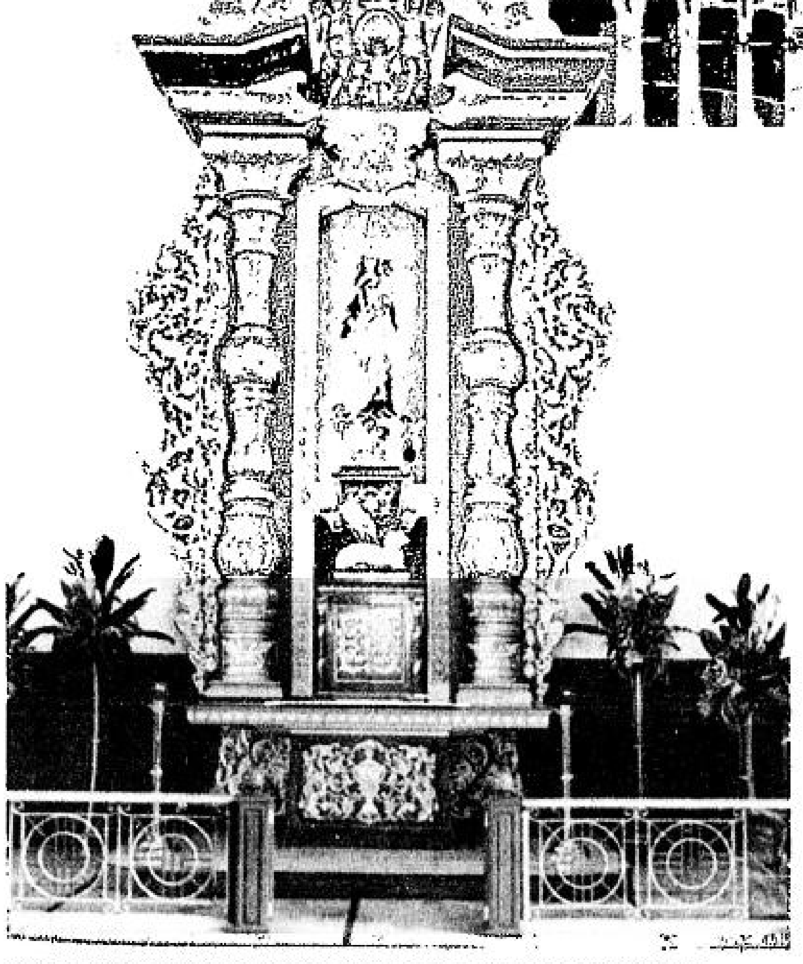
Besides being president of the pastoral council of Ermita Church, Adriano is chair of the Congregacion del Santissimo Nombre del Niño Jesus.



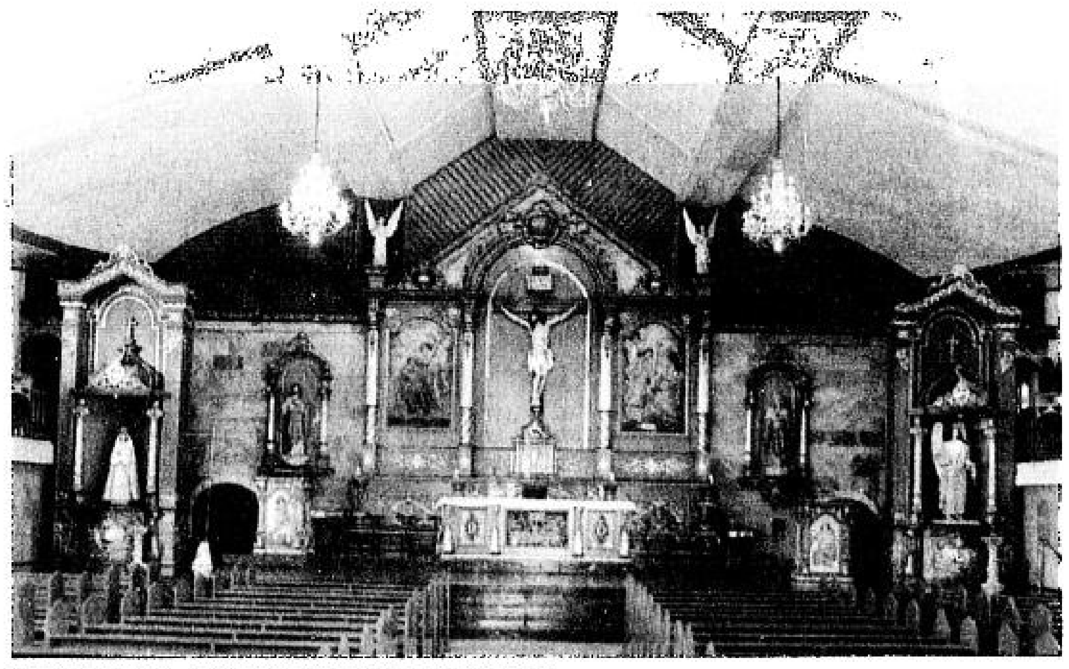
OUR LADY OF PEACE AND GOOD VOYAGE CHURCH IN ANTIPOLO
The niche of the Blessed Mother is encased in a nonreflective glass that gives a better view of the Virgin. The niche interiors are complemented by decorative panelings and ceilings with a rosette design as an accent. The architectural scrolls are placed in the center with the middle logo of Virgo Maria. The overall architectural design follows the motif of the church interiors.



NUESTRA SEÑORA DE GUIA, ERMITA CHURCH
Niche with two Roman Corinthian columns capital with entablature and decorative architrave and symbolic cross on the center. The altar table is decorated with the head of a ram, grapevine and urn as the focal centers.



THE NICHE OF THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL
Notice the columns are of different combinations and a blending of different period styles. It is a matter of taste to be able to produce this effect. The giant scroll design on the sides softens the architectural structure. The architrave is of period styles complemented by an angel, which holds the symbol of the Carmelite Order.



SAN RAFAEL PARISH CHURCH, NAVOTAS
To give an effect of Ionic architectural columns, the designer complemented the design with a shell motif on the tip of the niches together with scrolls of decorative carvings. The natural finish of the wood complements the silver of 23k gold leaf finish to produce the overall effect of elegance in simple style.

The heart of a gentleman

(From page D3)

mine, didn't go through any formal education. In the '60s, he held his first one-man exhibit. The quality of his painting was not far from those of established artists' at the time. That was because of his talent. But not anyone can do it.

What advice would you give to aspiring painters?

To be a painter is to arrive at one's art after a long struggle, dealing with trial and error. Even after having painted hundreds of works, I find there is no one method to guarantee success. One has to persevere and find the correct path, the character of high refinement anal great purity. The important thing is to "how to look, how to think and how to paint."

Does this love for painting run in the family? Are your kids and grandchildren into painting, too?

I have four children, two girls and two boys. My eldest daughter, Jenny, is an interior designer in Canada. Teddy is an engineer. My second son, Gilbert, is an architect, and my youngest daughter, Irene, is a pharmacist. All four of them are art lovers but they engage in different professions. Some of my grandchildren have been showing interest, but I don't encourage them to follow in my footsteps. Becoming a painter is a long-term investment. *Kung talagang gusto lang nila.*

Besides painting, you also write on art and host exhibits. Tell us more about these.

In 1983 in Taipei, Taiwan, I published my first book, titled "The Art of Ling-Nan Group." It has been published thrice since. I had written three more books but since the 1990s, I decided to set writing aside to concentrate on painting, my priority.

In 1994, Asia Art Gallery (at the Shangri-La Plaza, Mandaluyong) was founded. My daughter-in-law, Annabel, owns it. For the first three years, I gave advice on managing the gallery. Now I don't get involved with any operational or managerial matters, not even in the pricing of my paintings. I just give them my paintings and they take care of everything, including the guests of honor for my one-man exhibit.

Since you are a Chinese-Filipino artist, has the Chinese community been very supportive through the years?

I became a Filipino citizen in 1975. I was a member of a few Chinese associations until the 1990s. Now I am fully concentrating on painting. I have had 20 one-man exhibits since 1959, the last six with Asia Art Gallery. In my earlier shows, my guests included government officials, former teachers, good friends, classmates and art collectors who previously bought my paintings.

I really feel very proud I never took my painting as a business transaction, nor used it to ask for any help from anybody and still manage to live comfortably through the 21st century. On Nov. 8, I will mount my 21st one-man show at the Asia Art Gallery. With the continuing support from art lovers and the media alike, I will always be grateful for staying here in the Philippines.

On Nov. 8, 6 p.m., at the Asia Art Gallery in Shangri-La Plaza Mall, James Onglepho will open his 21st solo show. Guests of honor include Tomas C. Zita, Benjamin C. Sebastian, Tereso U. Cocabo and Eric S. Pesengco. Call 632-1433.

THE INTERVIEWERS with James Onglepho

Marivic Rufino . . .

(From page D2)

different from the pain, angst and anger prevalent in the world.

"I have learned to cope with a recent loss, pain and grief in the family. But I have also been blessed with love and contentment. All these have enriched me as an individual and as an artist. I have a deeper understanding of the universe and I have acquired a new perspective in life," Rufino-Buenaventura tells the INQUIRER.

This new point of view encouraged the artist to expand her horizons and try new things. From pure watercolor, she now experiments with acrylic and even mixed media. She says she paints more freely now and enjoys expressing herself in both impressionist and abstract works.

"I have a series of seascapes at sunset as well as impressions and memories of Provençe and Tuscany. Because of my long training in Chinese brush painting, I paint from memory. My colors are western but the feeling is Oriental," she explains.

She will also showcase "marinescapes" depicting the depths of the sea as well as sunsets at Tali Beach and Punta Fuego.

"I can see the gradual transitions in my paintings. The colors, strokes and moods are changing even if the theme remains the same," she adds.

Rufino-Buenaventura says she has been preparing for the show since 2000, her 12th since her first solo show in 1987. She explains that it took awhile to follow up on her last exhibit because it has been a struggle to find enough time to paint considering her different responsibilities.

Aside from writing a weekly column for a business newspaper, she is also treasurer-director of family corporations in real estate and executive director-trustee of three foundations (Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. and Metro Pacific Corp.).

She is also vice president-director of Alliance Française de Manille.

She also has her share of civic duties. Proceeds from the art show, for instance, will go to the St. Mary's House for young girls in Tagaytay and Serra's Center for girls in Manila.

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LUPIN III
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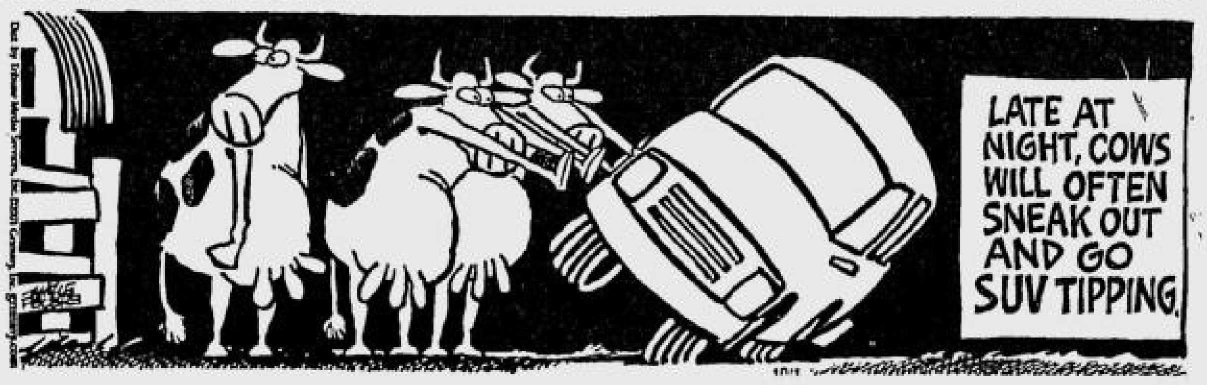
COMIC Relief

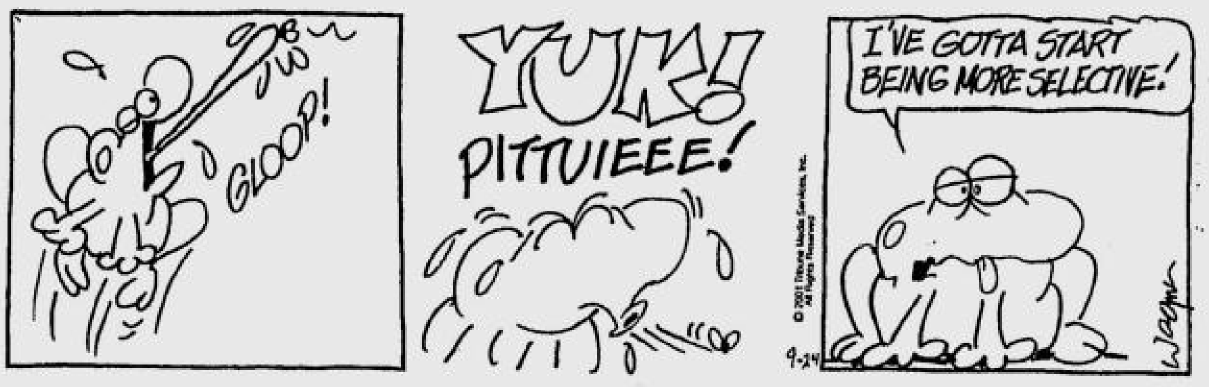
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


LATE AT NIGHT, COWS WILL OFTEN SNEAK OUT AND GO SUV TIPPING.

ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


GLOOP!
YUK! PITTUIEEE!
I'VE GOTTA START BEING MORE SELECTIVE!
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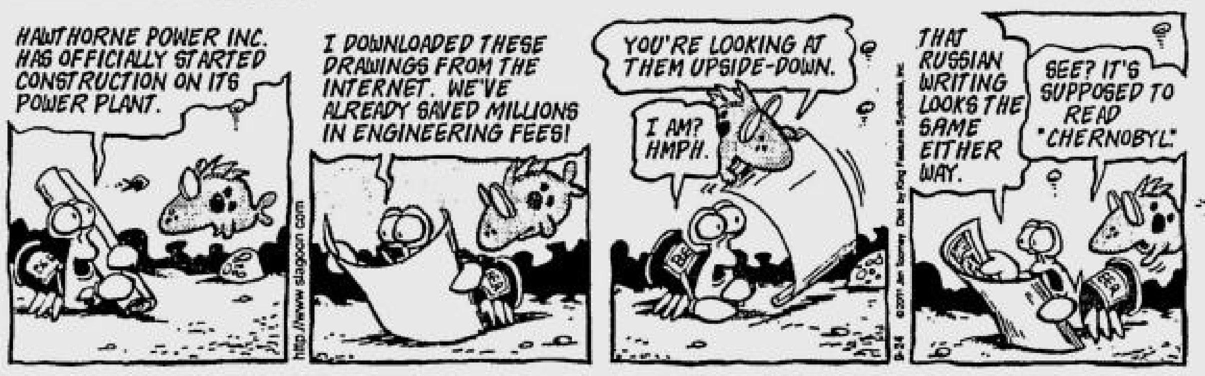
9-24

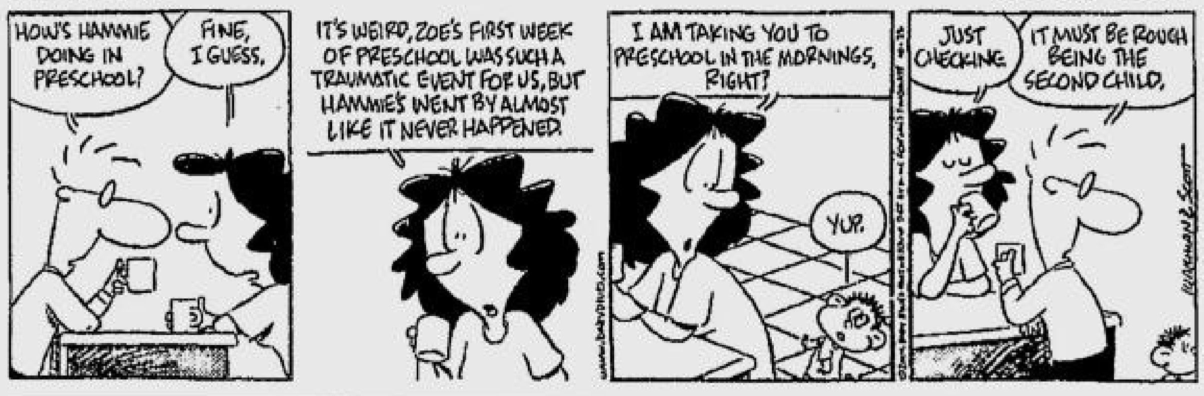
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


HAWTHORNE POWER INC. HAS OFFICIALLY STARTED CONSTRUCTION ON ITS POWER PLANT.
I DOWNLOADED THESE DRAWINGS FROM THE INTERNET. WE'VE ALREADY SAVED MILLIONS IN ENGINEERING FEES!
YOU'RE LOOKING AT THEM UPSIDE-DOWN.
I AM? HMPH.
THAT RUSSIAN WRITING LOOKS THE SAME EITHER WAY.
SEE? IT'S SUPPOSED TO READ "CHERNOBYL."
http://www.slagoon.com

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HOW'S HAMMIE DOING IN PRESCHOOL?
FINE, I GUESS.
IT'S WEIRD, ZOE'S FIRST WEEK OF PRESCHOOL WAS SUCH A TRAUMATIC EVENT FOR US, BUT HAMMIE'S WENT BY ALMOST LIKE IT NEVER HAPPENED.
I AM TAKING YOU TO PRESCHOOL IN THE MORNINGS, RIGHT?
YUP.
JUST CHECKING.
IT MUST BE ROUGH BEING THE SECOND CHILD.
www.babyblues.com

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Richard Dreyfuss, Kate Jackson, Winona Ryder, Leon Redbone, Joely Fisher, Rufus Sewell

Happy Birthday: If you're reticent about your feelings and ideas, you won't be able to put them into play. Your common sense has always stood in the way of taking a risk, but this year your intuition is urging you to gamble because you just can't lose. Your numbers: 18, 21, 27, 31, 36, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Pace yourself. If you overindulge in any way, you will find yourself in over your head. Be attentive to loved ones to avoid personal trouble.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't get all worked up. Learn to kick back and relax a bit. You can expect delays while traveling or with shipments. If you divulge secrets, they will be spread around. Keep your thoughts to yourself.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't let anyone talk you into spending more than you had planned. Join groups where people have the same beliefs and opinions as you.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Play it cautious. Don't push your luck at work or at home. Take a trip for business or pleasure and make new discoveries. Time spent with acquaintances will be stimulating.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Keep busy and involved in energetic activities. A competitive outlet will boost your ego. Love connections can be made through the company you keep.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Find a way to turn those creative ideas into cash. Look for someone with deep pockets to help you get things off the ground. You can be successful.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Say what's on your mind, especially if someone is trying to coerce you to do something you'd rather not do. Join a group that will motivate you and raise your self-esteem.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Steer clear of people who get on your nerves and reduce the chance of conflict. Focus on yourself and do whatever makes you happy.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Pace yourself carefully today to gain the competitive edge. Take the initiative and focus on those activities that will bring the greatest returns.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Think before making a hasty decision or comment. You will learn more and appear to be in control if you are reticent and observant. Focus on what's important to you.

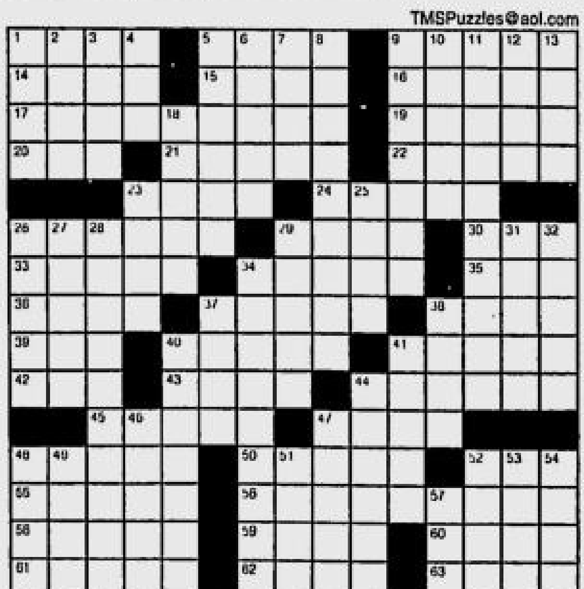
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't take any chances, especially while driving. Don't be too free with your thoughts, or someone will be thrilled to pass your personal information along.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Look out for your own interests today. This is not the time to lend or borrow cash. You'll experience financial losses if you have trusted someone else with your money. Be careful not to give too generously to children or charity organizations.

Birthday Baby: You were born with drive and determination, which should help you reach any goal. You will impress others with your stamina and ability to get things done. You are smart, sophisticated and suave.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By James E. Hinish
Williamsburg, VA

9/13/01

ACROSS
Accompanying
Wound mark
Eyeshade
1 Jacob's twin
15 Vaulter's need
16 Architect Jones
17 Aristocrat
19 Lubricated
20 Put in position
21 Terra firma
22 Adores
23 Reddish-brown horses
24 Coeur d'__, ID
26 Provokes
29 Contract in wrinkles
30 Hold up
33 Folkways
34 Choreographer Antonio
35 Armed conflict
36 Slant
37 Laun[illegible]y apr[illegible]
38 Eu[illegible]an de[illegible]se ass[illegible]
39 A p[illegible]e for: su[illegible]
Mountain nymph
4 Batting champ se[illegible] times
Dre[illegible]ner's letters
S[illegible] a lot
K[illegible] under [illegible]
45 [illegible]ore time
47 [illegible] sligh
48 Gomez Addams on TV
50 Zatopek and Jannings
52 Pitcher's stat
55 [illegible]rk sale items
56 [illegible]i-u [illegible]trac[illegible]
58 [illegible]ncln, Castle
59 [illegible]nch one
60 [illegible] amorously
61 [illegible]b missiles
62 [illegible]6/44
63 [illegible]ippery fish

DOWN
1 Spider traps
2 Seagirt land
3 Showing strain
4 Tint or tone
5 Spreads apart
6 Beer company
7 Plenty
8 Holding a smoking gun
9 Shrinking flowers?
10 Skull bulge
11 Table-setting elements
12 S-shaped molding
13 Fishing poles
18 Grizzlies
23 Hive populace
25 City north of Brussels
26 "Forever __"
27 Bete __ (pet peeve)
28 Cranium innards
29 Whitewater vessel
[illegible]rse opera
[illegible]t tan
34 [illegible]alous
37 German three
38 Dark blue
40 Temples and navels
41 Guelph leader Donati
44 Ship's kitchen
46 Colossus
47 Summer residence
48 Very dry
49 Evening in Rome
51 Canasta display
52 Outer limit
53 Dice toss
54 Becomes mellower
57 Unhappiness

SATURDAY PUZZLE ANSWER

K	O	P	S	■	S	A	T	E	■	R	O	M	A	N
A	R	I	E	■	O	D	E	R	■	E	V	E	R	T
I	D	E	M	A	N	D	A	R	E	M	A	T	C	H
■	■	■	I	N	N	E	R	■	N	A	T	■	■	■
L	E	A	N	D	E	R	■	S	T	R	E	W	E	R
C	A	V	O	R	T	■	C	O	O	K	■	O	S	U
S	T	O	L	E	■	P	A	L	M	■	D	O	E	R
■	■	W	E	W	A	S	R	O	B	B	E	D	■	■
L	E	A	S	■	G	A	N	N	■	A	S	I	D	E
I	L	L	■	C	O	T	E	■	A	S	T	E	R	N
V	I	S	C	O	U	S	■	S	T	A	R	R	E	D
■	■	■	A	N	T	■	I	T	A	L	O	■	■	■
W	A	I	T	T	I	L	N	E	X	T	Y	E	A	R
E	L	D	E	R	■	S	A	R	I	■	E	Y	R	E
T	I	A	R	A	■	U	S	N	A	■	D	E	E	D

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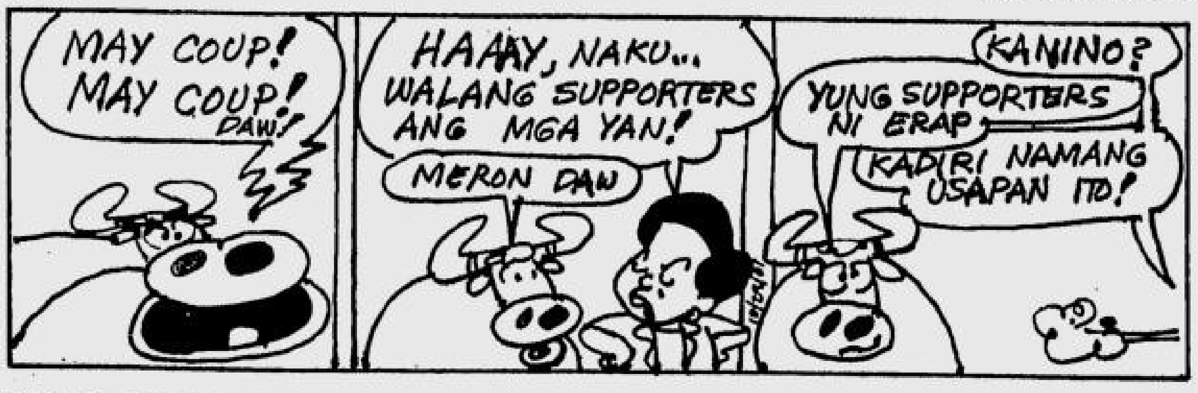
9/13/01

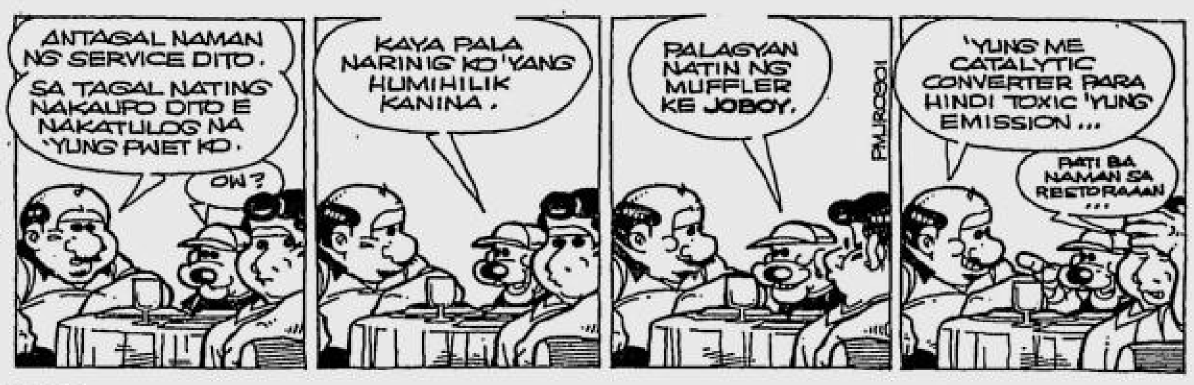
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MAY COUP! MAY COUP! DAW!
HAAAY, NAKU... WALANG SUPPORTERS ANG MGA YAN!
MERON DAW
KANINO?
YUNG SUPPORTERS NI ERAP
KADIRI NAMANG USAPAN ITO!

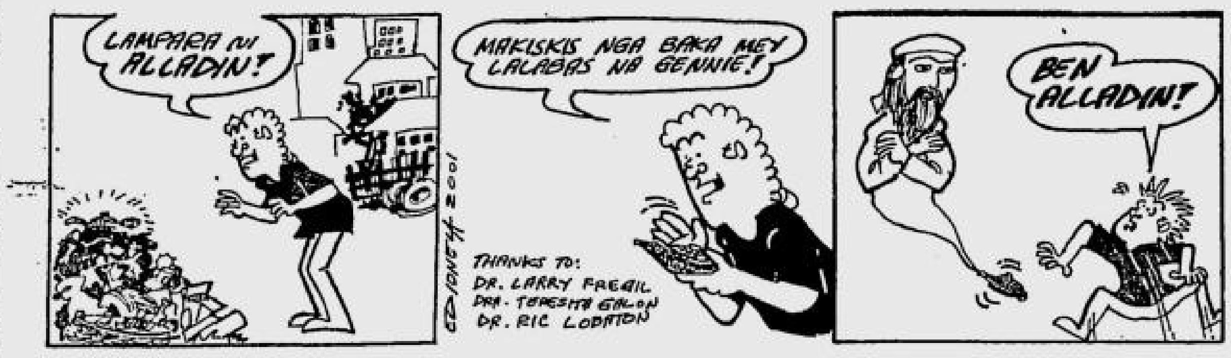
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ANTAGAL NAMAN NG SERVICE DITO.
SA TAGAL NATING NAKAUPO DITO E NAKATULOG NA 'YUNG PWET KO.
OW?
KAYA PALA NARINIG KO 'YANG HUMIHILIK KANINA.
PALAGYAN NATIN NG MUFFLER KE JOBOY.
PMJR0301
'YUNG ME CATALYTIC CONVERTER PARA HINDI TOXIC 'YUNG EMISSION ...
PATI BA NAMAN SA RESTORAAN ...

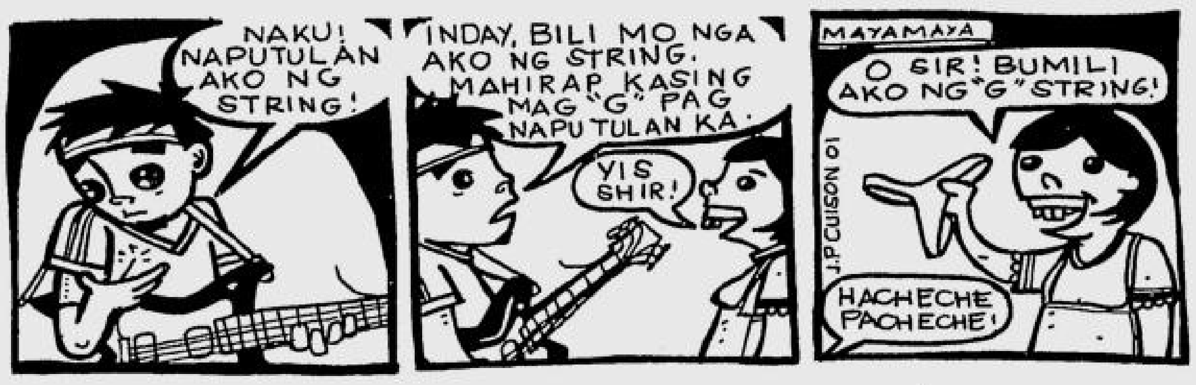
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


LAMPARA NI ALLADIN!
MAKISKIS NGA BAKA MEY LALABAS NA GENNIE!
BEN ALLADIN!
EDIONELA 2001
THANKS TO: DR. LARRY FREGIL DRA. TERESITA GALON DR. RIC LOBATON

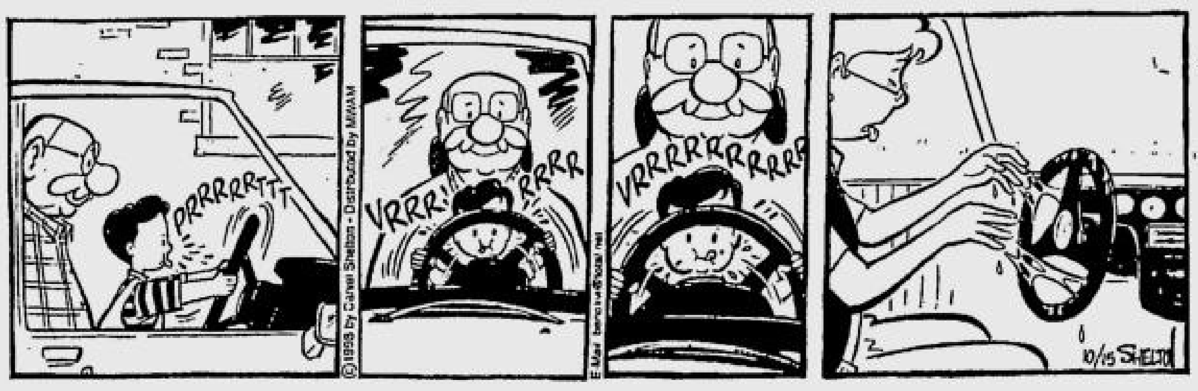
GARAPATA BLOOD

BY JOHN PAUL/BENG/MANIX


NAKU! NAPUTULAN AKO NG STRING!
INDAY, BILI MO NGA AKO NG STRING. MAHIRAP KASING MAG "G" PAG NAPUTULAN KA.
YIS SHIR!
MAYAMAYA
O SIR! BUMILI AKO NG "G" STRING!
HACHECHE PACHECHE!
J.P. CUISON 01

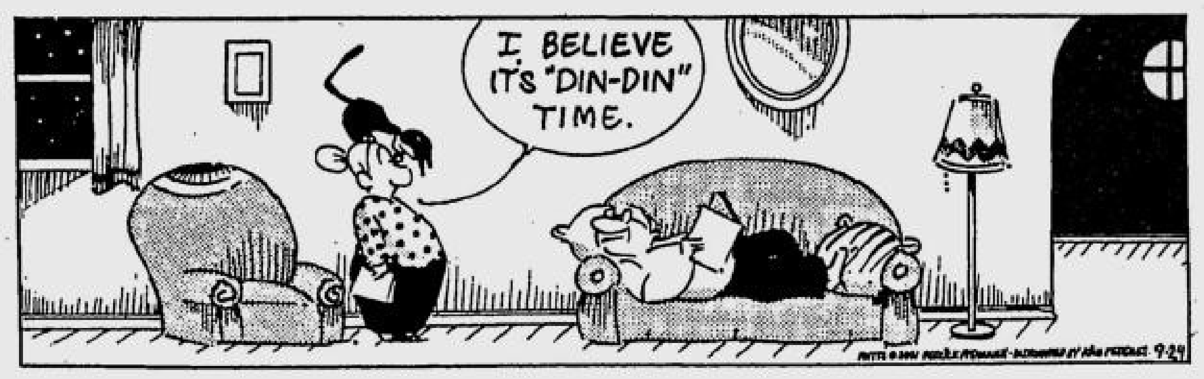
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


PRRRRRTTT
VRRR! RRRR
VRRRRRRRRRR
10/15 SHELTON

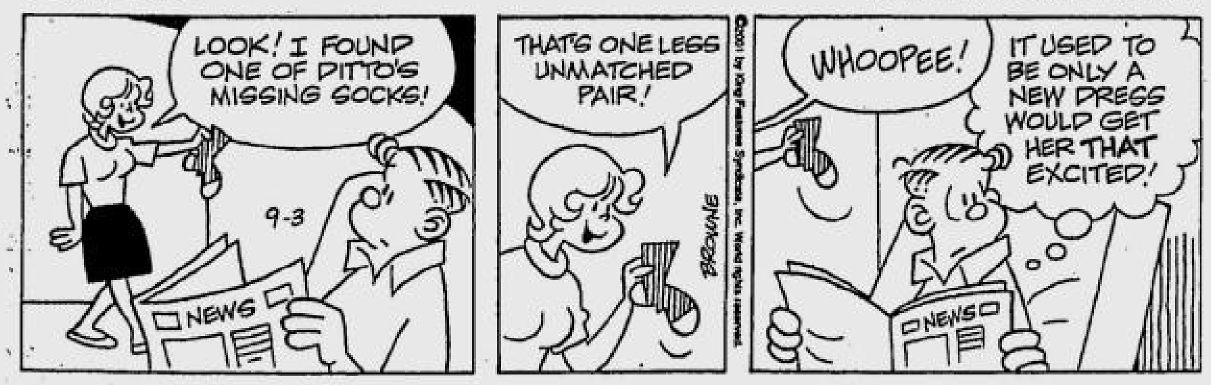
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


I BELIEVE IT'S "DIN-DIN" TIME.
9-24

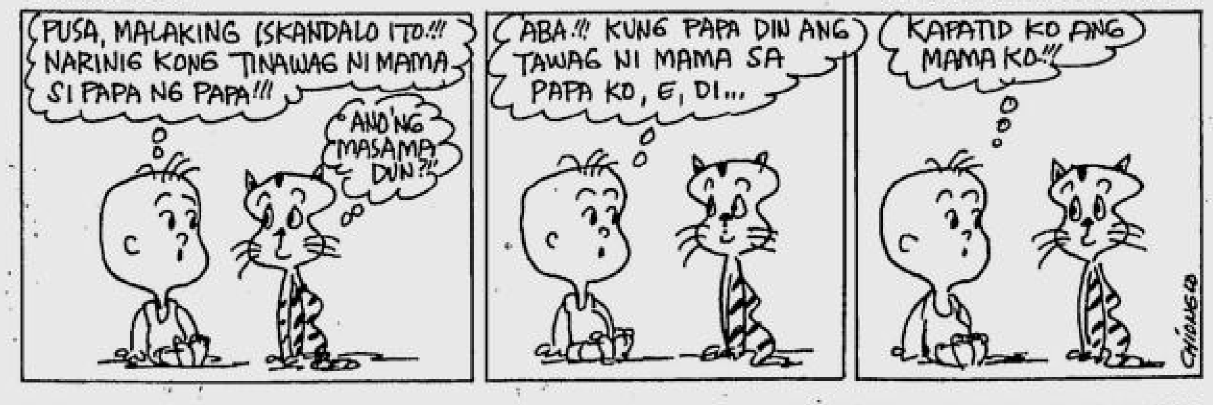
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


LOOK! I FOUND ONE OF DITTO'S MISSING SOCKS!
9-3
NEWS
THAT'S ONE LESS UNMATCHED PAIR!
BROWNE
WHOOPEE!
IT USED TO BE ONLY A NEW DRESS WOULD GET HER THAT EXCITED!
NEWS

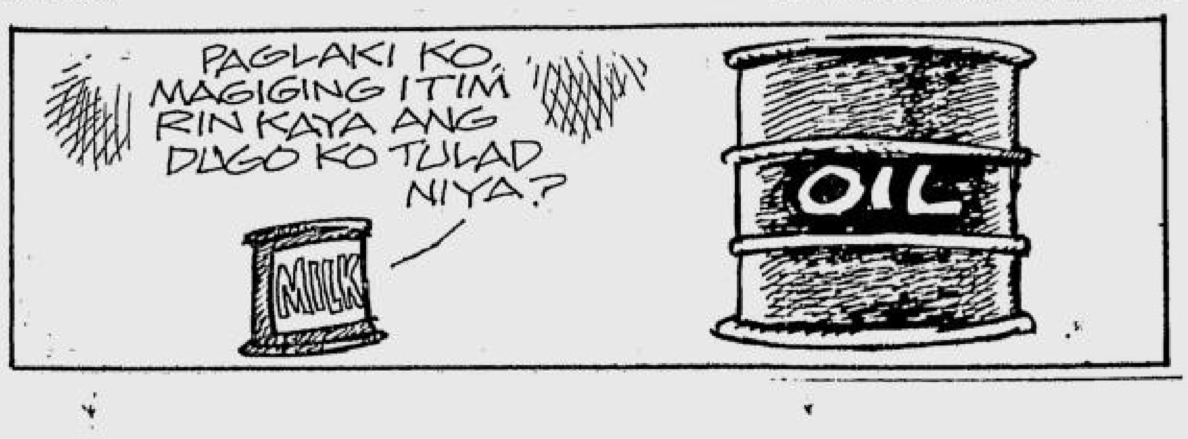
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


PUSA, MALAKING ISKANDALO ITO!!! NARINIG KONG TINAWAG NI MAMA SI PAPA NG PAPA!!!
ANO'NG MASAMA DUN?!!
ABA!!! KUNG PAPA DIN ANG TAWAG NI MAMA SA PAPA KO, E, DI...
KAPATID KO ANG MAMA KO!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


PAGLAKI KO, MAGIGING ITIM RIN KAYA ANG DUGO KO TULAD NIYA?
MILK
OIL

TELECOMMUNICATIONS *Update*

Aries B. Espinosa, Assistant Editor
SPROJECTS@INQUIRER.COM.PH
Aggie Pinili, Account Manager

4,000 JOBS TO BE CREATED

2 US companies to locate in Subic

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo received the commitment of the CEO of two leading IT companies in the United States to set up offshore operations in the Subic Freeport Zone within the next few months.

Ralph Reese, CEO and co-founder of Reese Brothers and Communication & Commerce, made the assurance during a courtesy call on Arroyo in Malacañang Oct. 22.

In turn, Arroyo assured Reese of her administration's support for foreign investors and guarantee of a level playing field.

Reese was accompanied by Tourism Secretary Richard J. Gordon, who was instrumental in convincing Reese to locate his two companies in Subic.

Reese Brothers and Communication & Commerce are among the largest privately held firms in the customer response management (CRM) industry in the United States.

Gordon disclosed that the two companies are currently negotiating for commercial spaces in Subic and could start operations within three months.

He said they would generate as many as 4,000 high-value jobs, making it one of Subic's most prominent and largest investments in three years.

Gordon said he had been working as early as 2000 to convince the two IT companies to locate their operations in the Subic Freeport Zone.

Early last year during a visit to Pennsylvania, Gordon met with Reese Bros. consultant Rick Bergman to discuss the merits of an offshore operation in Subic.

The talks were followed by a visit to Manila last June of Ralph Reese, CEO and co-founder of both Reese Brothers and Communication & Commerce.

Gordon assured Reese that under the administration of Arroyo, the Philippines would give special focus on IT-related projects.

He said Reese toured Subic and was impressed with the abundance of a pool of highly educated and English-speaking workforce, adequate housing facilities for workers, and ample telecommunications bandwidth from the PLDT subsidiary Subic Telecoms.

"Dick Gordon showed us the facilities in Subic, and we were immediately convinced of the site's merits. We knew that there was a lot of IT talent in the Philippines, but this is the exact atmosphere we want them to be working in. I'm sure we won't have any problem outsourcing some of our US volume to Subic," said Reese.

Gordon said that when he was chair of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, he and his staff had envisioned a cyber-city concept for Subic soon after the introduction of the Internet.

"Not only was the telecoms infrastructure more than adequate, Subic provides the extras that would attract the best and the brightest in the IT industry," he said. "Programmers and software developers need something more than just a fat salary to bring out their creative juices; Subic's environment and high quality of living provides just that."

Reese Brothers and Communication & Commerce operate 14 call centers in the United States, handling inbound and outbound voice, e-mail and online chat inquiries and telemarketing services.

Employing more than 5,000 workers, they are also heavily involved in the development of CRM software and systems, a number of which are patented and being used by the other CRM outfits.

Among their US clients are MCI, AT&T, Sprint, Microsoft, Providian Bank, Fleet Bank and the American Red Cross.

Maximize your battery life

ARE YOU one of the lucky few that haven't lost their cellular phones, or haven't had their phones snatched away? If so, we salute you for your eagle-like protection of that oh-so important tool of communications for all this time. But there is one part of the mobile phone you are bound to lose, no matter how cautious you are, and these are your batteries.

Perhaps, after two years of being such inseparable partners with your cellphone, you may start to notice that your phone's battery is losing its original "spunk" and endurance. You begin to wonder why your phone suddenly switches off in the middle of an important conversation, or even before your text message gets sent. Don't blame it on the phone. It is designed to last a lifetime, or at least as long as the present technology permits.

Most likely, the ol' battery pack is fading out. That means, you have to buy a new battery. Buying a new one just exactly like the old one is simple enough. But didn't you know that some batteries are on the way out in the market, and there are new ones that are more powerful and last longer between charges?

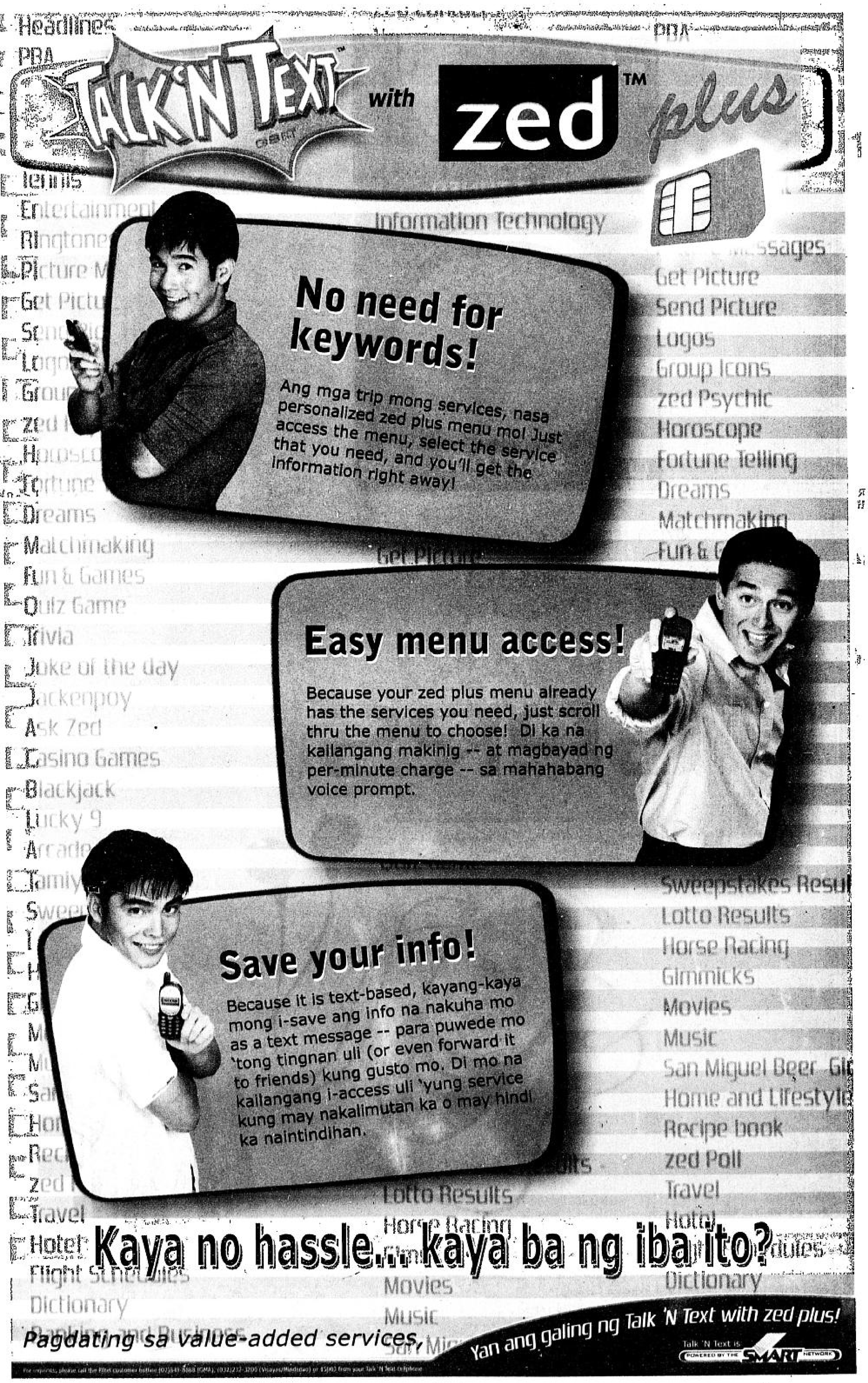
Here is a short rundown of five different types of batteries, their pros and cons:

- **NiMH (Nickel Metal Hydride).** Along with the NiCad (Nickel Cadmium) batteries, the NiMH is a battery type on the way out of the market. NiMH batteries are "high-maintenance" batteries, which means users have to completely discharge and recharge them once in a while so they could retain their optimal capacity. They are, however, cheaper than other batteries.
- **Li-Ion (Lithium-Ion).** Li-Ion batteries are considered the most advanced widespread cellphone batteries available. Eventually, they should totally replace NiMH and NiCad batteries. Li-Ion batteries are lighter and thinner than NiMH or NiCad batteries. They usually have a longer lifetime, and are not "high-maintenance", which means users don't have to completely discharge and recharge them. However, Li-Ion batteries are much more expensive than their NiMH counterparts.
- **Li-Polymer (Lithium Polymer).** This type of battery is still quite rare and an even more advanced type of battery. Li-Polymer batteries are even thinner and lighter, if you are lucky enough to find one.

Less is more

There is a way to reduce your energy consumption and allow you more standby and talk-time between each charge. Follow these simple tips.

1. Stop using those sounds your phone makes when you press a key.
2. Use a ring tone instead of the vibration mode whenever possible. Ring tones use less energy.
3. Some phones allow you to adjust the duration of the backlight when you press the keypads. You can reduce the backlight timeout. Refer to the user's manual of your phone if this is possible.
4. Finally (and probably the most important of all), never subject your phone and its battery to extreme heat. Never leave your phone close to a heat source, or on the dash of your car.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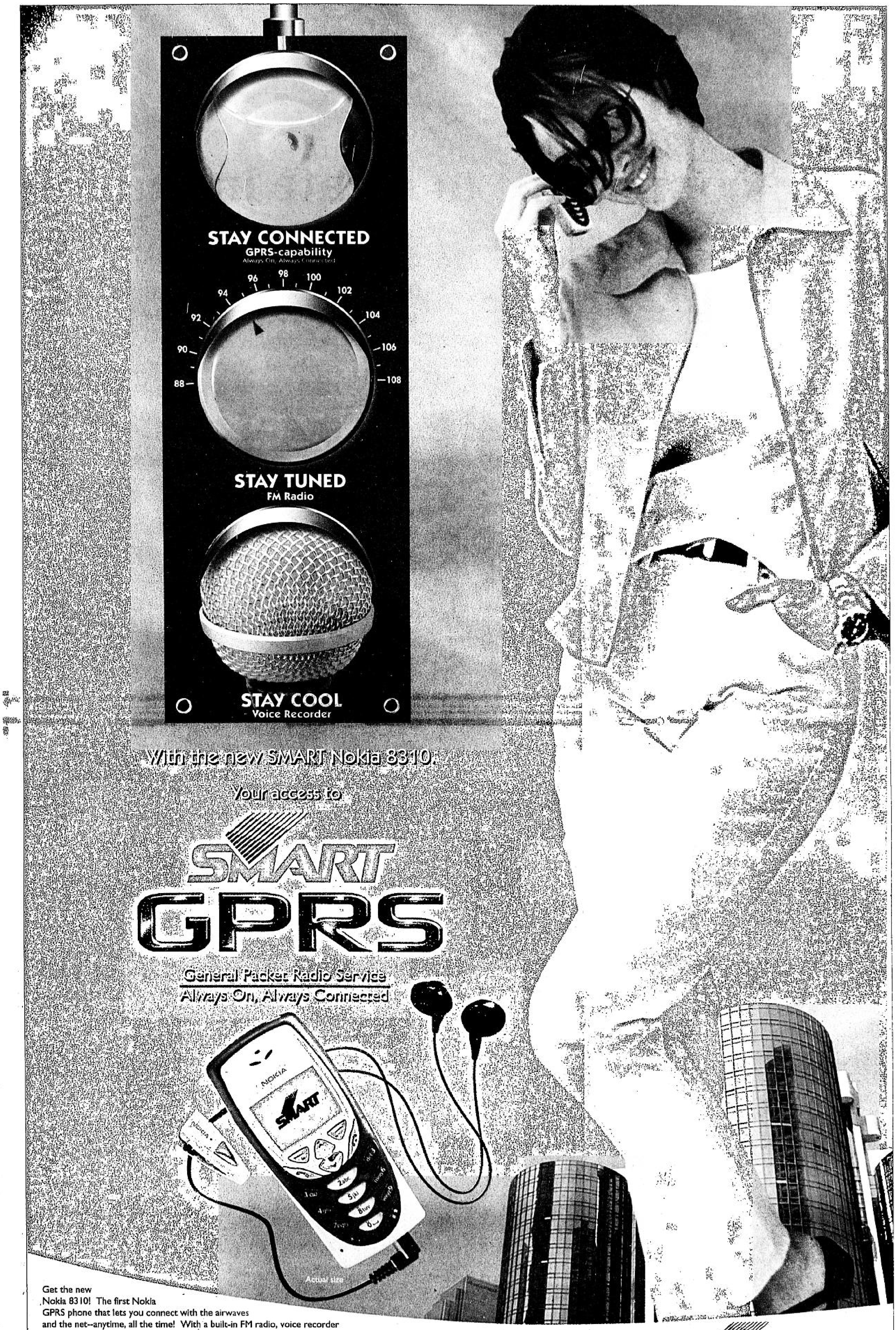
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VICENTE Alba as Peter Van Daan and Farida Kabayao as Anne Frank in Iloilo Theater Company's "The Diary of Anne Frank"

'ANNE FRANK' IN ILOILO

Angst in the attic

By Luna Griño-Inocian

OF STAGE

WHEN Corazon Pineda-Kabayao of the Arts Council of Iloilo Foundation Inc. and the Iloilo Theater Company invited me to see their production of "The Diary of Anne Frank," I went quickly enough. It was, after all, a welcome break from doing PR and marketing for a mega-production like Trumpets' "Little Mermaid," plus the promise of real *la paz batchoy*, fresh *talaba*, grilled blue marlin and all the other wonderfully mouthwatering Ilonggo delicacies. But

ANGST/ p.E4

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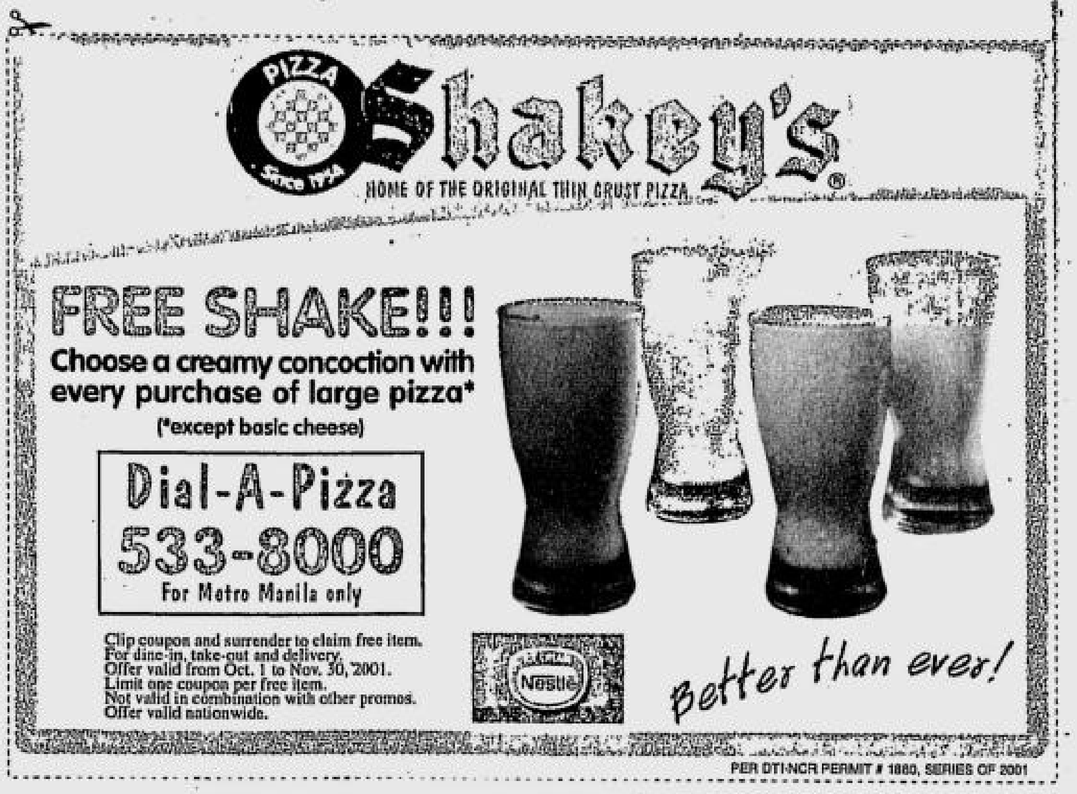
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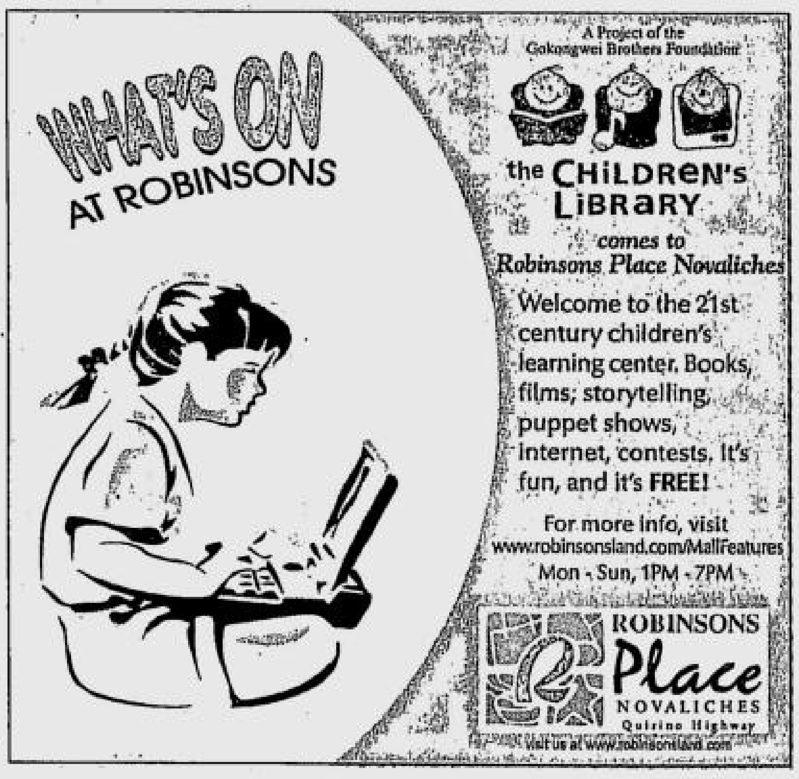
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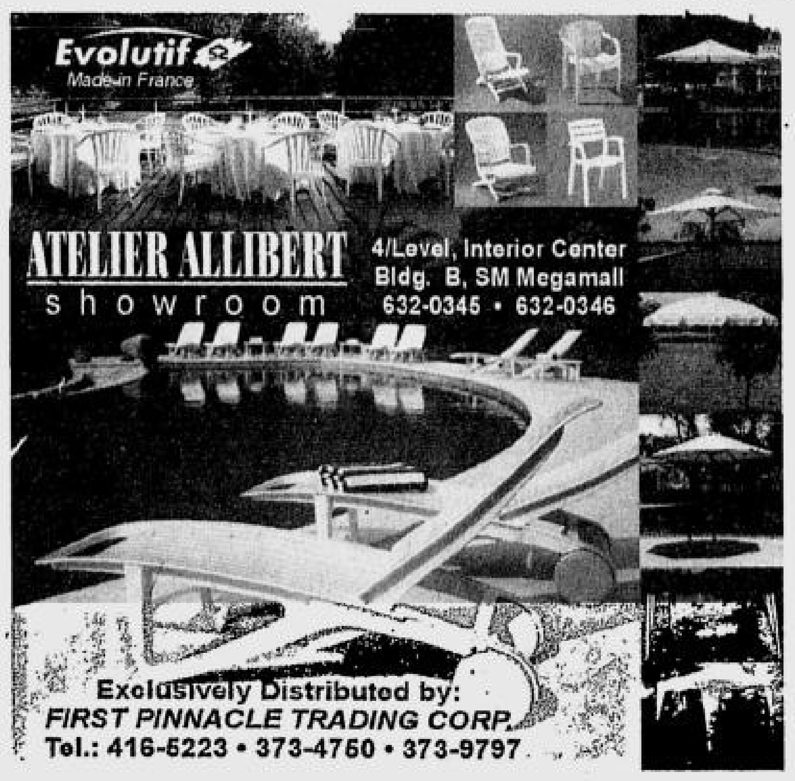
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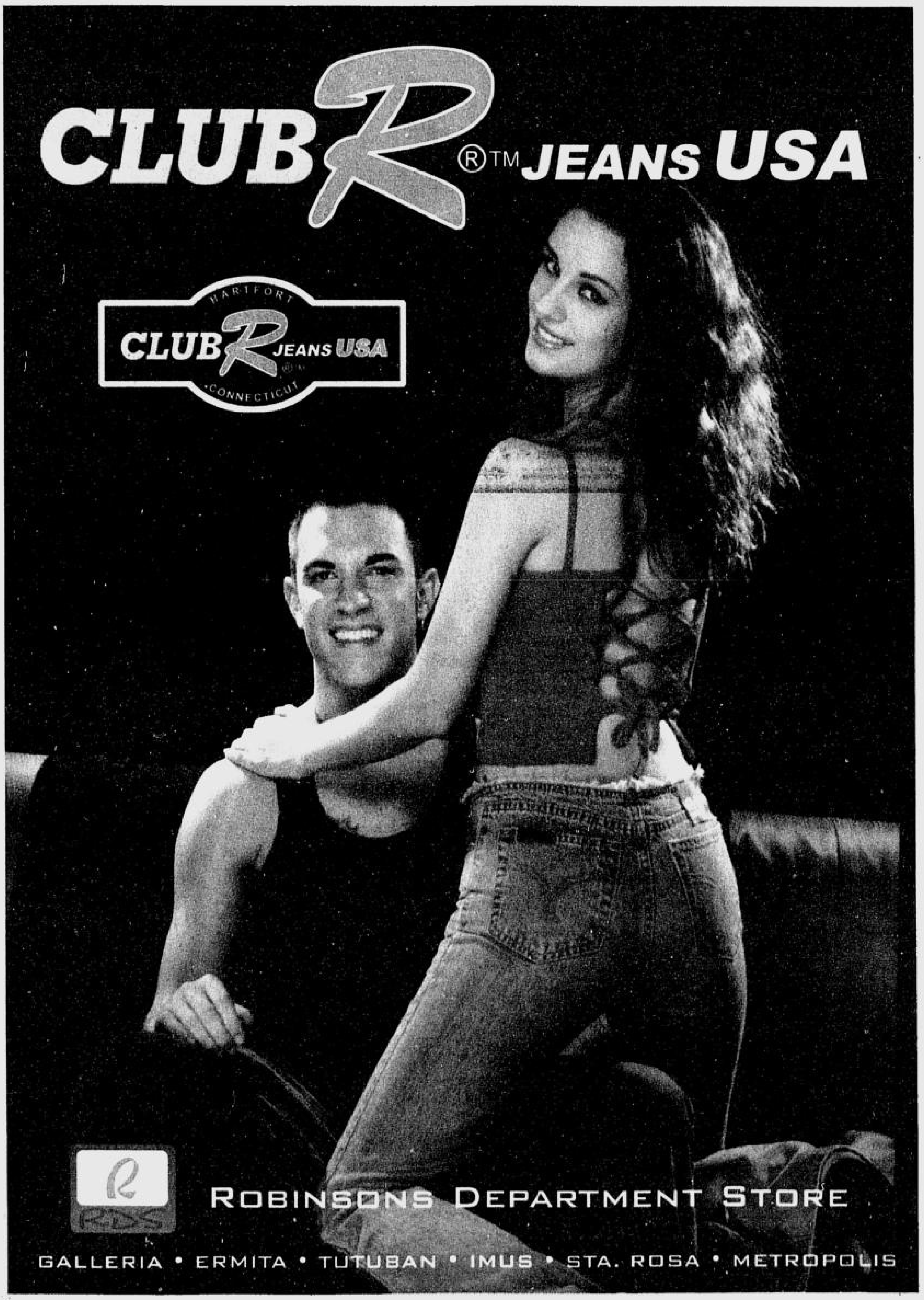
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THE CAST of "Rent"

'Rent' gets more rending, 'Cactus Flower' is fun

BY CORA LLAMAS

EVERYONE had high expectations for the opening of Atlantis' production of "Rent" on premiere night, and the show certainly delivered them.

It's pretty well known that Jonathan Larsen's modern tale of bohemian rebels, who lived, fought, loved, sung against edgy MTV-style music, had played to standing-room crowds here in Manila two years ago. It also garnered rave reviews, albeit with a few different cast members, a few months ago in Singapore. It is obvious that the nimble, sprightly cast, spiritedly directed by Bobby Garcia, has jelled by now. They quickly react to each other's lines and nuances with the familiarity of friends who can immediately guess each other's thoughts and moves even before they do them.

If memory serves, the first staging in Manila, for all its high energy and gut-wrenching emotional projection, appeared more like a concert than a musical. This one is definitely theater.

JM Rodriguez plays Mark, the bespectacled filmmaker who records life but does not participate in it, as sadder and wiser. His boy-next-door looks have aged somewhat, and even his bouncier choreographer skirts the edgy. Rodriguez, who's more involved in TV, has been missed on the stage. Personally, I hope to see him again in another play soon after "Rent."

'RENT'/ p.E5

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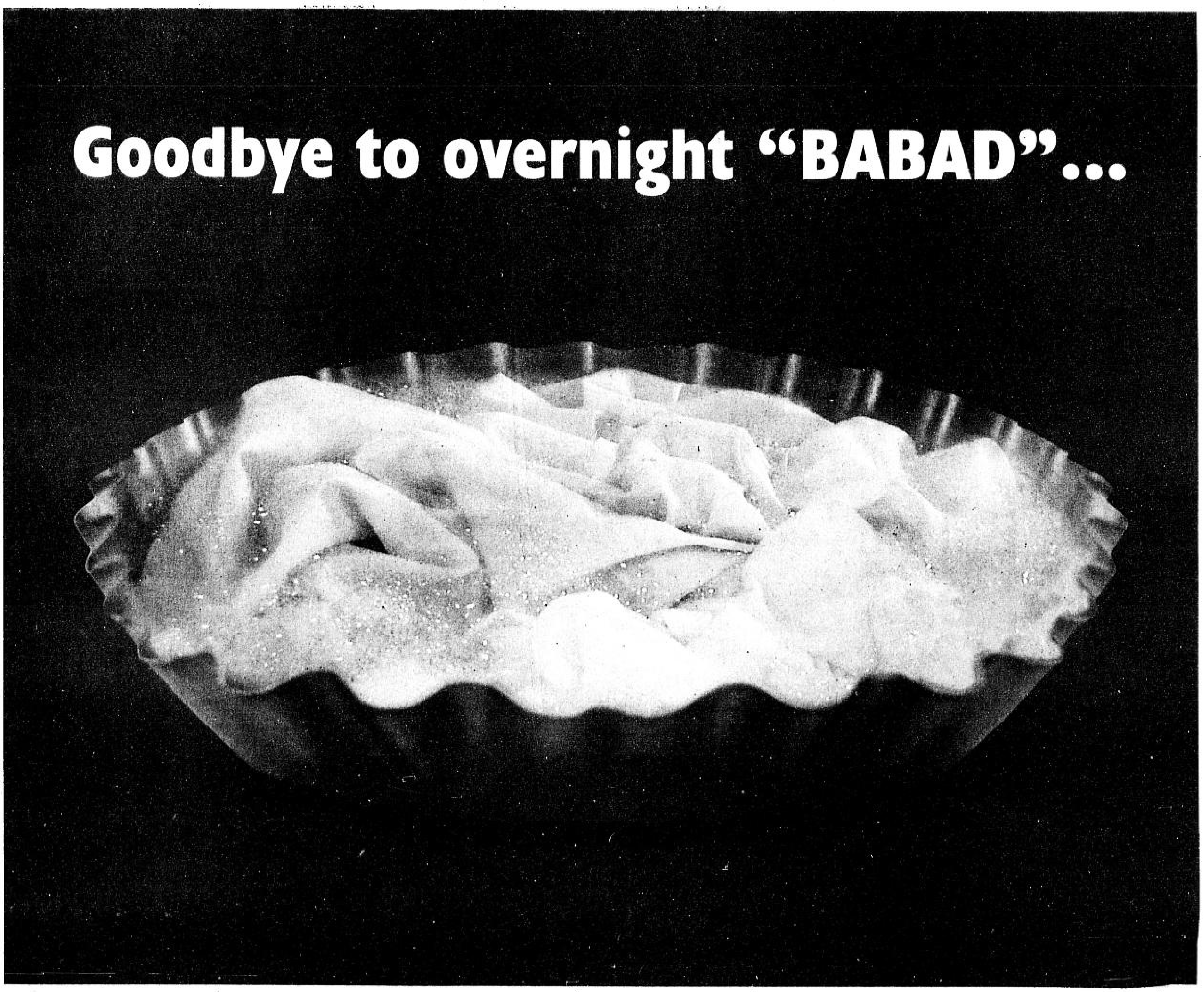

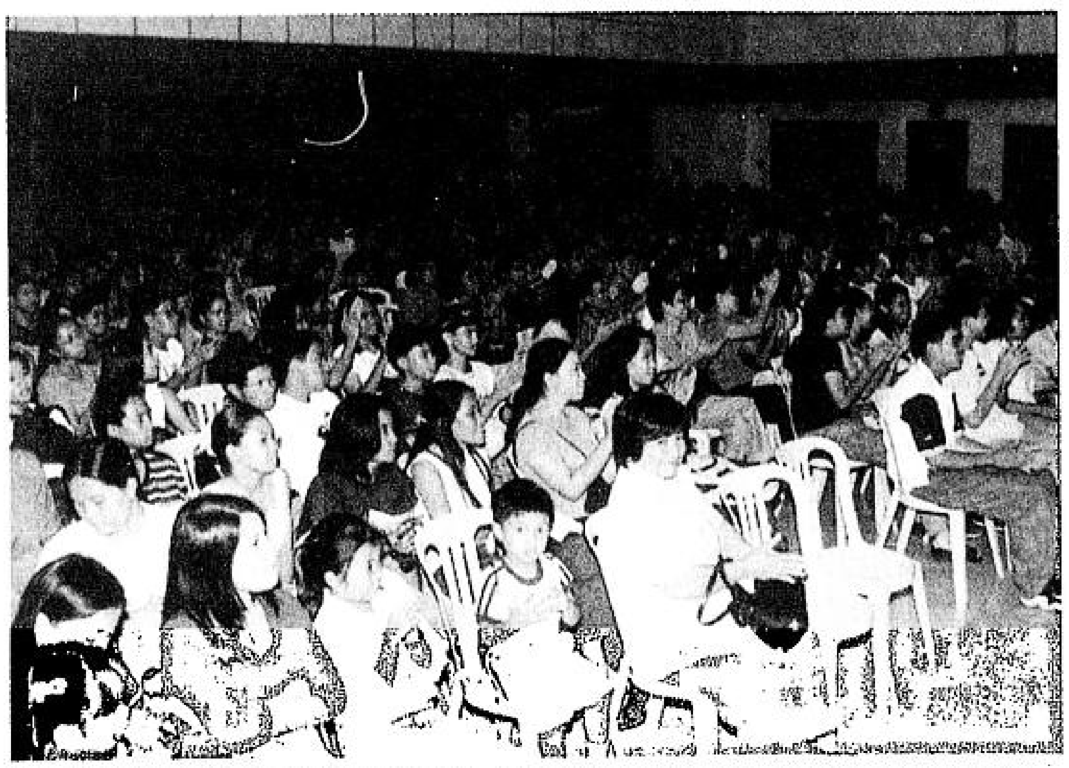

THE AUDIENCE at the CAP Auditorium, Iloilo City, for Iloilo Theater Company's "The Diary of Anne Frank"

CAST party

Angst in the attic

(From page E1)

what finally clinched it for me was *Manang* Cora's obvious enthusiasm and pride in the production. She was positively gushing.

It was that fervor that made writing this article difficult. I just couldn't quite seem to get a handle on it—not in a way that would convey her enthusiasm and pride without sounding like a run-of-the-mill review, a mere commentary on the state of theater in Iloilo, or random observations and impressions of events and people. In the end, I have still come up with a review/commentary of sorts plus some observations and impressions. You'll pardon me if I don't gush though. My friends will tell you that only Mel Gibson and Ralph Fiennes make me gush.

Based on the diary of a 13-year-old Dutch Jew recounting her life in a cramped attic with seven other people for two years prior to their capture by the Nazis, "The Diary of Anne Frank" was (and still is) a wonderfully wrought script that has moved me time and again. I have seen at least two very well-staged and well-acted versions of the play. Both portrayed Anne as a Dutch Pollyanna dripping with hope and optimism in the face of adversity. The Iloilo version was different. And I was intrigued and enthralled.

Director Kevin Piamonte had gotten hold of Mirjam Pressler's "Anne Frank: A Hidden Life" that contained pages from Anne's diary. These contained the thoughts of a young girl who was certainly energetic, cheerful and optimistic but who was also headstrong, defiant and, yes, bratty. Though the existing script graphically described the less than ideal circumstances and harsh living conditions in the attic, the missing pages showed that the discord among its inhabitants was largely downplayed. Kevin "corrected" this with careful editing of the text, by adding subtext and through insightful directing—turning the usually sanguine piece into something more disturbing but certainly more believable.

Confined to their little garret, the Franks and Van Daans probably knew little of what was really going on outside. Kevin (with the help of multimedia director Robert Rodriguez), however, made sure that the audience knew. Atrocities committed by the Nazis were shown during key points in the play. Video clips and photos of Jews being herded into trucks and trains, emaciated children, gas chambers, mass graves were shots of reality right in your face. Very effective.

Ensemble piece

Though seen largely through Anne's eyes, the play became less Anne-centered and more an ensemble piece, each character having his/her moment and each character's journey clearly defined. It became the story of everyone in the secret annex, and a story told very well indeed.

The human relationships became even more stark—the affection, simple joys, fears, boredom and personal angst... Ahh, yes, the angst in the attic. So real. They argued, stamped off, slammed doors, threw tantrums, broke down and cried... And I nodded in approval. Under those circumstances, I would have done all of the above and perhaps gleeful throttled one or two of the other occupants to boot.

And yet, happily, thankfully, the "realness" of the personal conflicts made the love and caring more genuine and the hope and optimism more precious.

There were a few "surprises," too. For those unfamiliar with the material, much is made of Peter Van Daan being the object of Anne's affection and the bestower of her first kiss. Well, Kevin hinted at a flirtation between Peter and Margot, Anne's sister, via syrupy sweet glances, comforting embraces and secret smiles. When I asked why he included the love triangle slant, he replied, "Because the missing pages say there was more than one." Hmmm...

All in all, it was a pretty refreshing experience even for a theater cynic (read that as I've seen so much of it, it's difficult not to find fault anymore) like me. Oh, there were "shortcomings," if one wants to nit-pick. (Mio Infante could teach a few things about distressing costumes, for one.) But they count for nothing in the face of the pioneering accomplishments of this community theater group.

Joy of performance

For one, the Arts Council of Iloilo Foundation Inc. and the Iloilo Theater Company have successfully pulled off the very first straight play (as in nonmusical) in Iloilo in a long, long time. (Is it 10 years?)

Manang Cora, the executive producer (aided by lifetime partner Gilopez), pulled out all the stops—going school to school, company to company, to mark the production. And their efforts paid off. Their seven performances were well-attended (the Saturday I was there, they turned people away during the matinee) and well-received. So well-received they are scheduled for performances in Davao.

Secondly, the cast and crew consists of talented and dedicated people from different theater groups in Iloilo, community theater in the real sense of the word with students, teachers, pastors, newscasters, dancers, photographers and musicians all working together—devotedly, uncomplainingly, unreservedly and freely (as in literally). They do not get paid. They really do it for love, not money.

Their payoff is in the joy of performance, in the shared achievement and in the sense of fulfillment for a job well done. All that is in evidence at the cast party—and let me tell you, I have not seen such exuberance and unabashed joy in a cast party in a long time.

But you know, all theater companies started the same way. We all—Rep, Trumpets, Musicat, AAI, Peta, etc.—once worked devotedly, uncomplainingly and unreservedly... and all for free, too.

So take heart, Iloilo Theater Company—and all other community theater companies out there—keep up the good work. I would like to think that this is only the beginning. Meanwhile, try to keep the angst in Anne's attic and the exuberance and unabashed joy in your hearts.

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'Rent' gets more rending, 'Cactus Flower' is fun

(From page E3)

Calvin Millado's Roger wears his character's brooding, me-against-the-world mood like a second skin. And concert queen Rachel Alejandro, fit and revealing in short skirts as the stripper Mimi, provides the perfect foil to melt his ice away. Alejandro infuses her part with a cattiness that would lock horns with Death any time.

However, this strong tigress approach makes some of her scenes with the opportunistic Benny, played by real-life boyfriend Lee Robin Salazar, a little uneven. Salazar plays his part cool, in more ways than one; he's not a slimy, black-hearted leech, just a calculating, if cold yuppie who just wants to make it big. This works in his scenes with ex-buddies Mark and Roger; the audience gets to see the two different worlds that lay open before the Gen-X generation. But, he doesn't seem strong enough to take on Alejandro's strong female alone, let alone with big, muscular Roger behind her.

Michael de Mesa (another TV artist we'd like to see more on stage) and his mellow, expressive voice once again make his Collins the gentle giant in the group. Appearing opposite him as the proverbial Angel who never ceases to touch everyone with her humanity is Jake Macapagal. Macapagal's kind cross-dressing queen is more refined than mischievous, coy instead of subtly sultry. Still, after seeing Jake in "Hedwig and the Angry Inch," I can't help but miss some of the earthiness and raw energy that he poured into that character.

Lana Jalosjos and Bituin Escalante, as the lesbian lovers, kept pretty much to the sidelines in the first act, but built up and exploded during the second. Lana's Maureen appears as a flirty, almost air-headed, selfish actress who knows how to use her charms to her advantage; one can understand why Maureen and Mark lose their tempers over hers, yet not why they are so in love with her. In the first half, Escalante frets about the stage like a bundle of contradictions; she doesn't really stand tall, but her Harvard graduate character demands that she should. Her songs in the second half finally unleash that creative tension, and Escalante's wide vocals make it clear that her Joanne is no push-over.

One nice thing about this production is that individual members of the ensemble have their moments. Boyd Tinio and Gloria Sicam in particular shone through. More important, these little snippets—anxious parents fretting over their wayward children, an unscrupulous TV producer candidly telling Mark to sell his soul—have transcended from being mere bridges to bigger scenes; they become telling slices of life in New York, and how it's like to live in America in the New Millennium.

'Cactus Flower'

"Cactus Flower" is superbly portrayed by Joy Virata in Repertory Philippines' staging of the well-known Abe Burrows' comedy. In over two hours, Virata, who's lately been cast as well-meaning, kind, witty mothers or mean old ladies, transforms from a frigid, by-the-book nurse into a sexy, elegant middle-aged socialite. And, natch, she gets the unlikely hero, the long-tooth gigolo Julian, played by longtime stage partner Miguel Faustmann.

Rep founder Zenaida Amador directs her familiar stable of actors who by now are second family. And it's obvious that everyone is having fun. The play is fun; it's meant to inject a few doses of comedy and romance into your night after dinner.

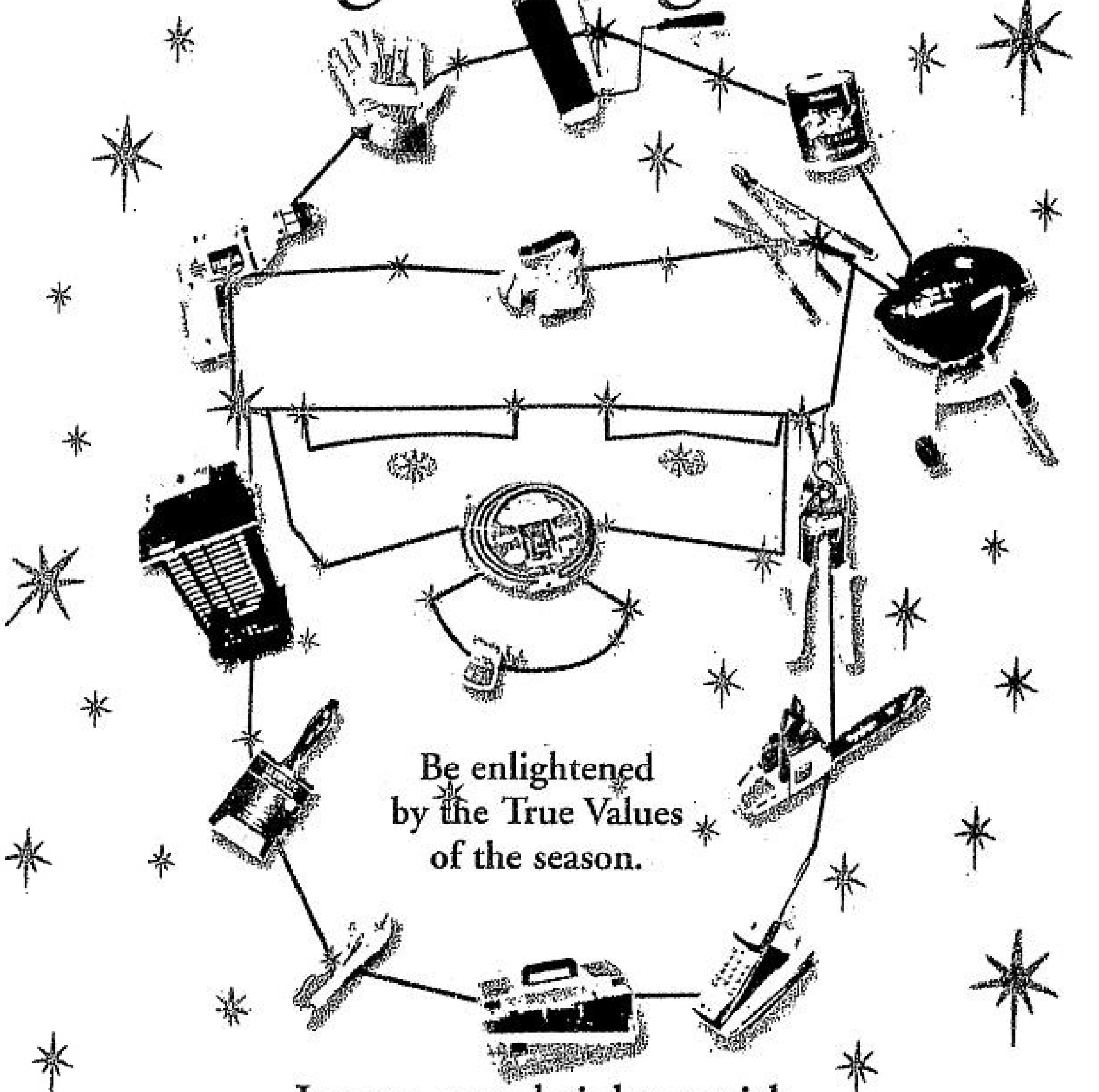
The plot is light and the outcome predictable. Julian, scared of being tied down for life by girlfriend Toni, asks his assistant Stephanie to play his wife. Soon enough, this role-playing brings out the long-buried sexuality of Stephanie and her unacknowledged feelings for Julian. When other characters like the irrepressible Señor Sanchez and the much younger Igor (Arnel Carrion) start paying attention to the new Stephanie, Julian is forced to look at his own feelings. You know where it will end. But it's still a joyride getting there.

Sometimes, though, the plot twists demand a suspense in belief, even by outrageous comedy standards. The many convolutions which lead to confusing complications stem from the innocent, if scatter-brained Toni's desire to make sure "Mrs. Winston" is happy—though she's responsible for their supposed marital break-up. It just doesn't make sense. The writing does not give us enough of the character's motivations to make Toni's increasing concern for Stephanie a tad credible. It's only Ana Abad Santos' masterful handling of the role, making her eccentric without being too crazy, that actually makes it work.

Another acting find in this production is George Ramos as the debonair Señor Sanchez who's like a Speedy-Gonzales during Valentine. Ramos' strong stage presence and impeccable comic (or dramatic) timing make him a stand-out even in small parts. In Rep's past "Ten Little Indians," his guilt-stricken doctor commanded attention in spite of a few lines and short stage time. In this production, his forlornness on one side of the stage as the rejected lover actually drew eyes away from Julian and Stephanie fighting it out on the dance floor. And, given the competent performers onstage, that's saying a lot.

Atlantis' production of "Rent," music and lyrics by Jonathan Larsen and directed by Bobby Garcia, will run at the GSIS Theater, CCP Complex until Nov. 4. Call 892-7078. Repertory Philippines' "It Had to Be You" has opened at the William J. Shaw Theater, Edsa Shangri-La Plaza Mall. Call 633-4821.

The Season's
Bright Bargains



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CHRISTIAN

PACO de Blas

LIZZIE Zobel and daughter

Spanish coup, Laya's legacy and Veep's faux pas

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

By Amiga

THE GOOD news is there's an ongoing Spanish festival that opened with a rousing *paella* dinner at Hotel Intramuros that had lots of Peninsulares and Insulares and us Indios enjoying the *paella*, lots of red wine and a grand performance by the Pinikpikan Band with our coffee.

Javier Galvan, director of Instituto Cervantes, and **Paco de Blas**, in charge of cultural affairs, and all their hardworking staff have to be congratulated for putting together a month-long program of Flamenco, guitar and piano concerts by renowned Spanish artists in record time. There was also the rare opportunity of viewing award-winning Almondovar films at the Instituto up to the end of the month.

Conchita and **Lani Bernardo**, our new envoys to Spain, were in attendance as well as former ambassadors **Isabel Wilson** and **Juan Rocha**. There was **Tessie Luz** who was off to Taipeh to visit her *apo* and **Arturo** who created a marvelous glass etching for the 80th anniversary of Catholic Women's Club. (Yes, this is an advertisement; kindly place your orders at the CWC office at the Parish Center of San Antonio and support the children at Elsie Gaches!). We saw **Pedro** and **Kitkat Roxas**, **Gemma Araneta** and **Baby Orosa**, **Pepe Rodriguez** and **Tereret Liboro**. And of course the gracious host himself, Spanish Ambassador **Tomas Pantoja**.

And no, there weren't any government representatives present which might not be a bad thing after all, what with all those bodyguards to feed there may not have been any *paella* left for the guests.

Mandarin Oriental's Tivoli continuing the Spanish month held a culinary festival dubbed "Sorpresa Deliciosa" featuring the innovative cuisine of Spanish guest chef **Tomeu Caldentey Soler** of the famed "Es Moli den Bou" restaurant in Mallorca. Melding Mediterranean and Asian influences the fare included *Bacalao gratinido con alioli*, *Pato con aceitunas y peras*, *Pimientos del piquillo rellenos de gambas y setas* and other cholesterol delights. Leading the ribbon-cutting were Spanish Ambassador Tomas Pantoja, **Helmut Gaisberger**, Mandarin's GM and his wife **Vina**, Swissair country manager **Paul Schenk**, Chef Tomeu, Austrian Trade Commissioner **Wolfgang Harwalik**, Mandarin's feng shui expert **Joseph Chau** and Deutsche Bank country manager **Michael Helbeck**.

* * *

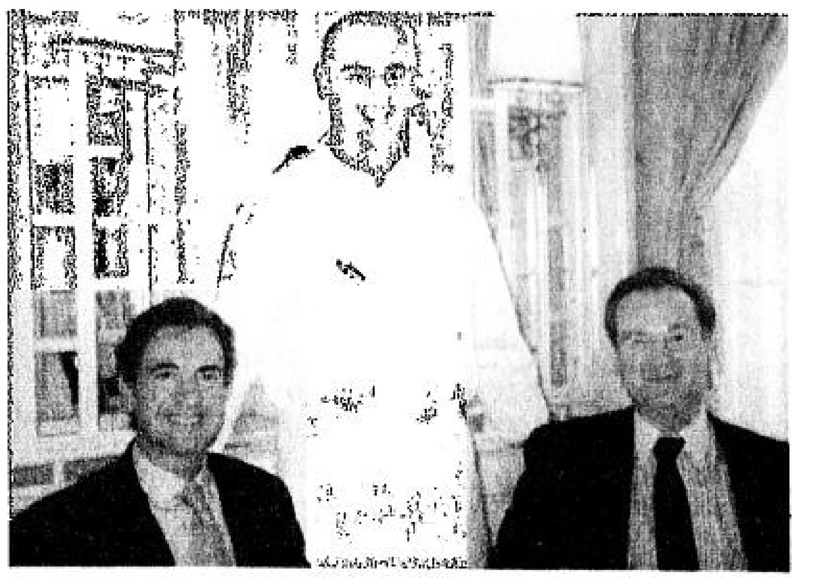
Good news too for art lovers will be the National Gallery of Art, brainchild of Dr. **Jaime Laya**. This will finally see the collections of the Central Bank, Intramuros Administration and the National Museum under one roof at the Executive House building of the National Museum. Inaugurated recently at the museum's centennial celebration with National Museum benefactor **Antonio Cojuangco**, Dr. Laya, incoming National Museum director **Cora Alvina** and Fr. **Gabriel Casal** cutting the ribbon. The halls aren't quite ready but there's a grant from the NCCA coming unless its high-jacked by congressional projects. (Now if only DOT would go away so that the Museum of Natural History could move into the building given them by **President Ramos**).

* * *

If you think the diplomatic faux pas by our brilliant DFA Secretary mentioned by Doro were the only ones—think again. It seems Secretary **Guingona** allegedly accepted a lunch invitation from the Belgian Ambassador with other ambassadors from European Union countries as guests and then failed to show up without even a by-your-leave. But he showed up later at a reception tendered by the Iraqi ambassador? Was that a message being delivered? You'd think Mme President had enough problems without political dead weights to add to them. As Doro said—jettison him. Or who knows? Maybe bungling is the order of the day.

PEPE Rodriguez, Isabel Wilson, Tessie Luz and Lani Bernardo

INCOMING National Museum director Cora Alvina


SPANISH Ambassador Tomas Rodriguez-Pantoja, Spanish guest chef Tomue Caldentey Soler and Helmut Gaisberger, Mandarin Oriental's general manager

DR. Jaime Laya and Tonyboy Cojuangco

Fair showcases charm of Spanish culture

SOPHIA (Spanish Professors' Association), with the Instituto Cervantes and the Intramuros Administration, celebrated the "Dia de Hispanidad" with a Verbena (fair) on Sept. 22.

Students from Manila schools like Ateneo de Manila University, University of the Philippines, Lyceum of the Philippines, University of Sto. Tomas, Miriam College, Philippine Normal University, etc. went to the Puerta Real Gardens, which reverberated with Spanish songs, hilarious skits and modern dances, including numbers from the Grupo Solea flamenco dancers.

The event was attended by, among others, Camara de Comercio Española president Javier Escat and his wife Sandra, Casino Español vice president Paco de Leano and his wife Becky, Espa-Fil's Marilou and Pablo Garcia, Sophia president Evelyn C. Soriano, Peru's ambassador to the Philippines Julio Cardenas, Peru's ambassador to Thailand Jorge Castaneda, Swedish Ambassador Ylf Hakansson, and Casa Alba customers Virgie Moreno, Pepe Rodriguez and Dr. Walden Bello.

Delicious Spanish and Mexican dishes like *paella*, *lengua*, *callos*, chocolate *con churros*, tacos, *chorizos*, etc. were available from Spanish and Mexican restaurants Casa Armas, Casa Alba, Dulcinea, Tia Maria and Sabroso.

Jesus Armas held a *paella*-making demonstration at his booth.

Javier Galvan, director of Instituto Cervantes, offered prices like scholarships, books and shirts.

Coordinating the different participating sectors were officers and members of Erasmas, the European Studies student organization of Ateneo, and Lyceum's Foreign Service Club officers.

LOTTA and Richie Cuerva, Rowena, Marilou and Pablo Garcia

Malate Church celebrates with Mary a new era of mission

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

WHEN Malate Church marks its novena Masses for the fiesta on Nov. 18, the theme will be "Celebrating with Mary a New Era of Mission." The parish, which is dedicated to Nuestra Señora de los Remedios or Our Lady of Remedies, is run by the Columban Fathers.

The priests who will celebrate the Masses from Nov. 9-17 at 6 p.m. will focus on the theme in their homilies. They are Fr. Lorenz Festin, Nov. 9; Fr. Colm McKeating, Nov. 10; Fr. Roy Rosales, Nov. 11; Msgr. Roberto Espenilla, Nov. 12; Fr. Constantino Conti, Nov. 13; Fr. Enrico Adiviso, Nov. 14; Fr. Sanny de Claro, Nov. 15; Msgr. Domingo Cirilos, Nov. 16; Msgr. Augusto Laban, Nov. 17 at 9 a.m., and Msgr. Manuel Gabriel, Nov. 17 at 6 p.m.

Bishop Teodoro Buhain will officiate the concelebrated Mass on Nov. 18 at 9 a.m. Novena is prayed every day at 5:30 p.m.

The new Remedios Jubilee Center was inaugurated during the fiesta last year. But it is still not fully finished, so fund-raising projects are still being planned with the help of the parish organizations.

Fr. Michael Martin, parish priest, spearheaded the building of the center with the prayer that God would provide. Built during a period of two years, at least P12 million was raised for its construction. The cost was awesome, but this did not deter the priests and the parishioners who bought tickets for different raffles.

Now the center stands proud and useful for organizations that need to meet, for celebrations like the silver anniversary or even diamond jubilee of priests who have spent their lives serving the Lord.

Beng de Joya, who heads the Mother Butler Guild, is particularly involved, not only in the fund-raising, but in seeing to it that liturgical vestments are ready for the priests that would celebrate Mass. This year, Joe Salazar is dressing up the Virgin and decorating the church with flowers.

Somehow I've always been involved in Malate Church not only as lector, but as a devotee to the Virgin of Remedies. I am a parishioner because I've always lived in Malate. Perhaps the Virgin called me to live here. For that I am grateful because through this devotion to the Virgin, I've risen in spirituality.

Dom Martin de Jesus, O.S.B., a.k.a. Gang Gomez, the fashion designer, also lived and worked in Malate. When he entered the Monastery of the Transfiguration in June 1990, we his friends were taken by surprise. But that is a long story, so I just wish now to thank Dom Martin for inspiring us to be more spiritual. If he could do it, we could do it, too.

As a novice, Dom Martin would walk in the mud through the fields and work on the soil. The monks planted coffee, which today is packaged as the premium Monk's Blend, a thriving business.

Today the coffee is served at Café Juansoy at the corner of United Nations Avenue and Cortada Street in Ermita. One can also buy a pack and bring home to brew.

After successfully introducing Monk's Blend, Dom Martin launched a two-year research liturgical vestments using indigenous weaves and embroidery from at least 20 regions. The result was a grand exhibit at the Ayala Museum, in cooperation with Ayala Foundation.

The women in high society whom Gang Gomez dressed up years ago graced the occasion. Dom Martin's talent as an artist came to the fore. Suddenly, everyone was talking about how possible it was to use indigenous materials in vestments. But this is not the end of the story.

Sonia Ner, then executive director of Ayala Museum, persuaded Dom Martin to put the whole thing into a book. Four years in the making, it was launched at the Filipino Heritage Library on June 23.

"Worship and Weave: Towards Filipino Liturgical Vestments" is a remarkable book of 330 pages, which features over a hundred colored photographs by George Tapan.

There are 50 liturgical vestments featured in the book all designed by Dom Martin. Perhaps, God prepared Gang Gomez for a life of design in the higher realm to make vestments worn by priests in the celebration of the Mass.

To discover how Dom Martin did it, please order the book by calling him at the monastery at (088) 221-2373 or fax (088) 221-2899. The book can be delivered in 48 hours. Those living in Manila can order from Filipinas Heritage Library at 892-1801 (ask for Mia or Cecille) or e-mail librosfilipinos@fillib.org.ph.

Treasures old and new

MSGR. Mario Baltazar, O.P. has written a collection of his homilies titled "Treasures Old and New," which the Association for the Educational Assistance of Poor Seminarians has published in three volumes.

Fr. Boyd Sulpico, O.P., wrote to say that this project is a new development in the Philippine local church. Proceeds from the sale of the book will go to the education of poor seminarians from Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Burma, East Timor and from the Philippines. The books are available at the Sto. Domingo Church religious bookstore and leading bookstores. This should be interesting to devout churchgoers, Bible enthusiasts and all Christians who wish to cultivate a Bible spirituality for greater union with God.

A Rosary for the Pope

THE MONTH of October has been dedicated to saying one Rosary for the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II. This bit of news came to us late, but we urge readers to continue praying for the Pope's good health.

Rosaries for peace

BAHAY Maria's executive director Carmela Borres informed us that "Rosaries for Peace" will be prayed from Nov. 1 to Jan. 1, 2002. This project was suggested by Fr. Catalino Arevalo, S.J., to which Ambassador Howard Dee is giving his support.

Explore the website www.mariansolidarity.com and participate as a member of the Marian Solidarity Global Family.

Carriers of peace

IN A RECENT message of Our Lady in Medjugorje, she urged the children of Medjugorje (not only those living there, but us as well) to be "carriers of peace" by prayer, penance, forgiveness and fasting.

Our Lady of Manaoag

THE PILGRIM image of Our Lady of Manaoag is now at the San Roque Parish in Navotas, Rizal until Nov. 4, after which it will be transferred to the St. Joseph Parish in Gagalangin, Tondo. The image will stay there until Nov. 11.

San Lorenzo Ruiz in bronze

A STATUE of San Lorenzo Ruiz carved by sculptor Fred Baldemor was cast in bronze by Johnson Atelir in New Jersey. Later, it was installed at the St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York in September.

Celebrating life

LIFE must go on, even if our hearts are breaking at times. We have to celebrate life and great those who are living it to the full as ministers of God.

Fr. Roy Rosales, assistant parish priest of Manila Cathedral, is marking his silver anniversary as a priest on Dec. 5. There will be a Mass at 6 p.m. on that day.

Fr. Gene Castañeda, parish priest of the Sacred Heart Church in Old Sta. Mesa, is celebrating his 25th year as priest on Dec. 11. Jaime Cardinal Sin will be his homilist during the Mass at 5:30 p.m., at the Manila Cathedral.

Congratulations to Maripaz and Subas Herrero who will be 35 years married on Nov. 19. This beautiful couple has found their mission in life. Subas is now a healer. Maripaz helps him. And being a devotee to St. Joseph, Maripaz propagates the devotion to the saint.

Gardening the first time

INSPIRED by "Chicken Soup for the Gardener's Soul," I am now trying my hand at planting seeds of flowers. It is never too late. First, I put *baston ni San Jose* in water. It was given to me by Tita Ampy Pobre. Now it is growing tall right on my dining table in an old antique vase. It is a marvel how things grow. The flowers will come later.

More Spanish lessons

THOSE who still want to learn Spanish through a tutor can beep me at 141-020543.

FR. Michael Martin (back, second from right) with members of parish organizations in Malate Church that honored him with an appreciation dinner

Fantasy photos in Metro, hunks in Starstudio, pasta in Food

IMMIGRATION and the Pinoy who chooses to make another country his home are the headliners in this month's issue of ABS-CBN Publishing's lifestyle glossy Metro. Read about the most immigrant-friendly countries, how to qualify for immigration, the pros and cons of living here or abroad, the sobering statistics on the OFW phenomenon and the tales of people who opted to come back.

Also in this issue—which features Tin-tin Bersola on the cover in doll-like Orientalia—is the fun, fabulous portfolio of the tireless Jim Paredes of some of Manila society's celebrated personalities photographed out of (or in?) character, among them Fritz Ynfante in Bacchanalian glory, Boy Abunda as diva, Doris Ho as a Metro Aid, Tessa Valdez as a living doll and Winnie Monsod as a boxer.

Starstudio, another ABS-CBN Publishing offering, has Anne Curtis for its cover this October. Inside, she talks about all those boys and declares that, after all that's been said about her, "I am not a flirt."

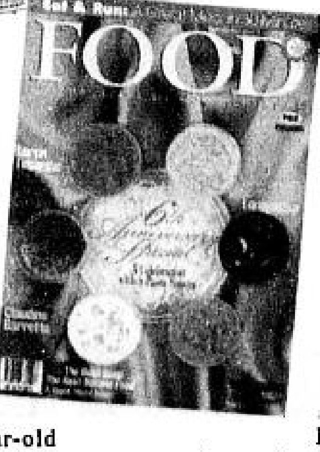
The "fun fan mag" also boasts a Friendship Special this month including the 32-year-old *barkadahan* that is the APO, the endearing "sisterhood" of young stars Shaina Magdayao and Serena Dalrymple, the newfound friendship of Martin Nievera and Pops Fernandez, and the bond on and off the tennis court of BF neighbors Christopher de Leon and Sandy Andolong, Pinky de Leon, Tirso Cruz III, Zoren Legaspi, Rustom Padilla, Michael de Mesa and Gina Alajar. Plus, an interview with Diet, Echo, Amir, Piolo and BJ, more popularly known as the Hunks.

Other ABS-CBN Publishing magazines that promise to spice up your life this season are Chalk and its sembreak special; Food Magazine celebrating its sixth anniversary this issue with six of the best pasta recipes on the cover story; and Metro Working Mom, the magazine for busy moms, has the infanticipating Karen Davila-Sta. Ana on the cover. It has features on self-enhancement and wise media consumption.

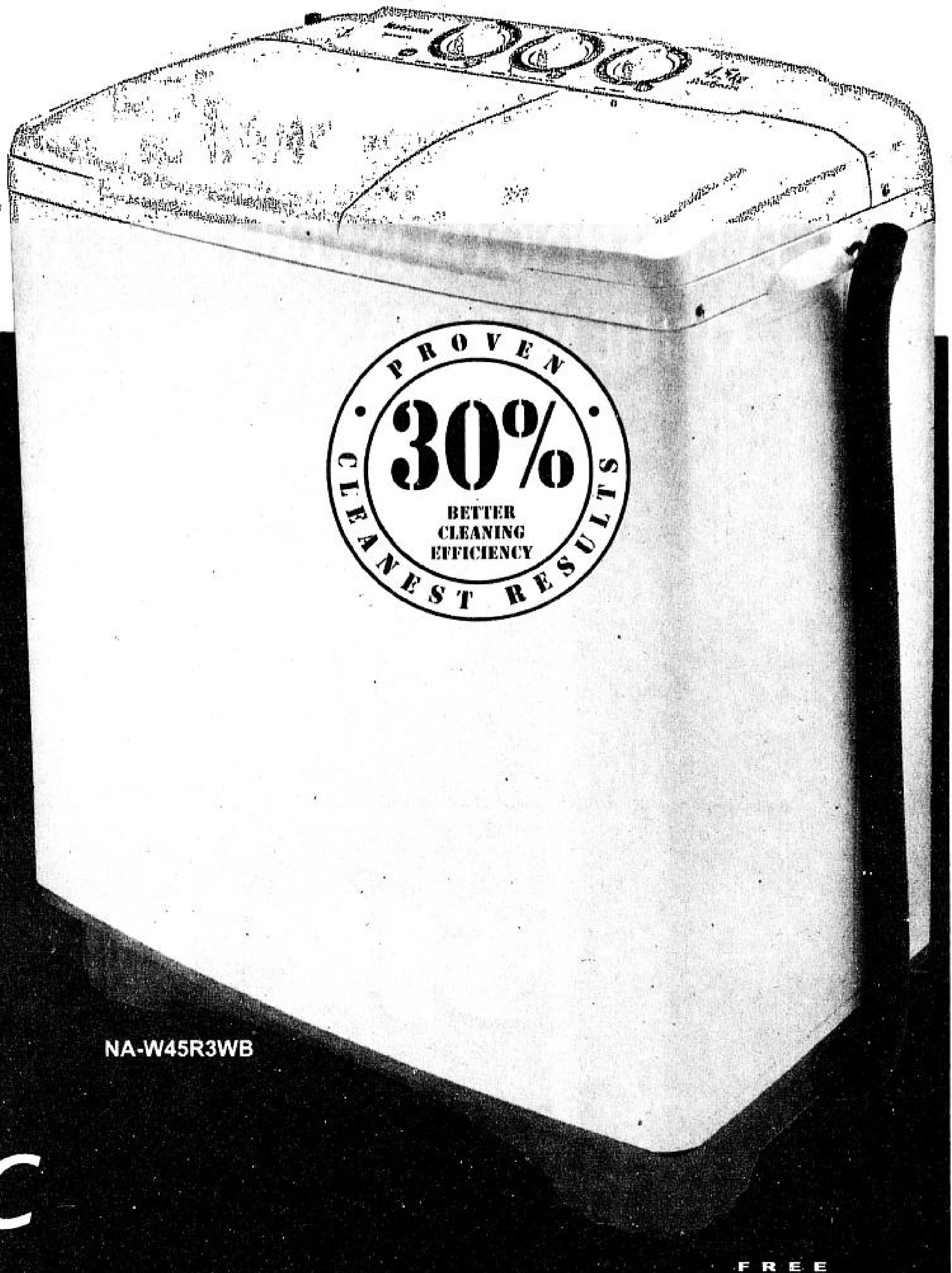
The magazines are available in all leading bookstores, magazine stands and convenience stores nationwide.

NEWSMAKERS
MAKE BELIEVE

I am not a flirt!



New!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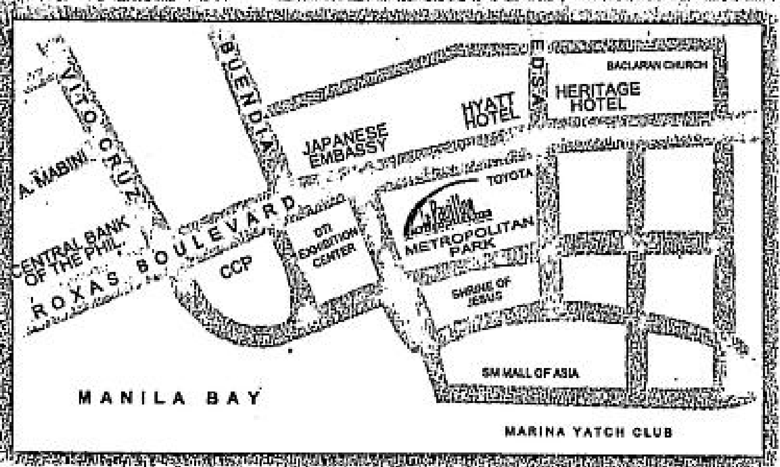

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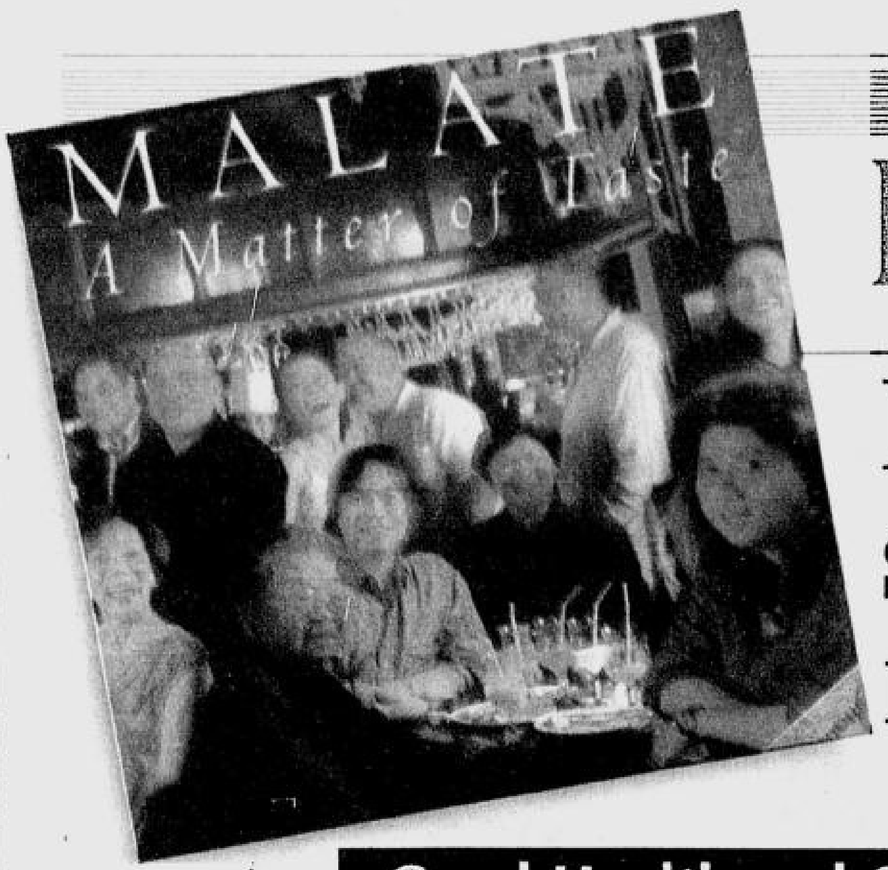

Larry's secret recipe

Story on page F2

A new book lovingly documents the restaurants and places that have become synonymous with Malate district. It is also about the man who started it all

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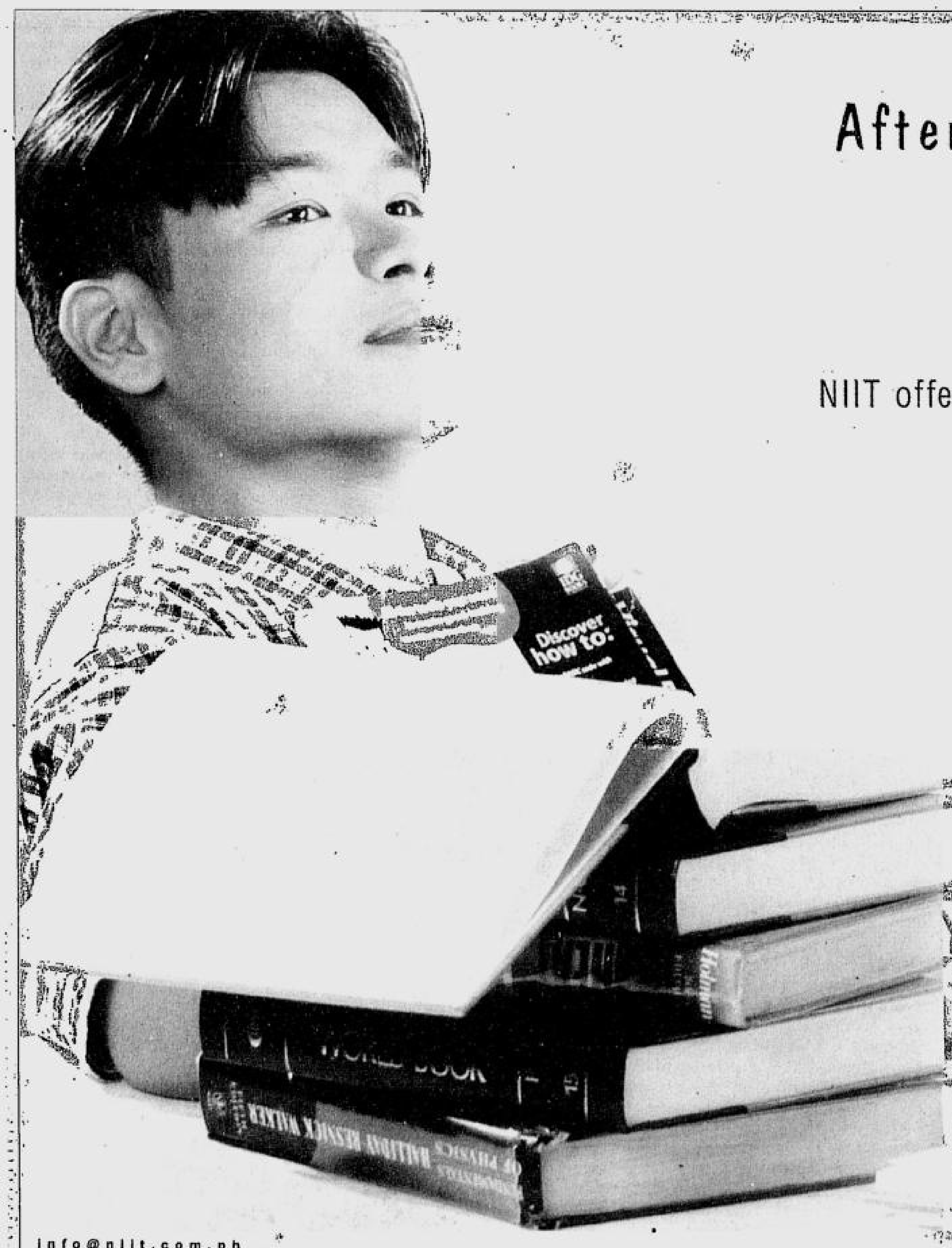

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SINUAM na Mais

Larry's secret recipe

BY JAMES P. ONG
FOOD PHOTOGRAPHY BY NEAL OSHIMA

THERE are places one either loves or hates. In the case of Malate, however, it's a unanimous love. This old district of Manila has managed to charm almost everyone—socialites, politicians, entertainers, designers, writers and even your run-of-the-mill lovers. Maybe it's the mix, the bonhomie. After all, it used to be said that, in Café Adriatico, you could be dressed in your casual best and be sitting beside someone in tuxedo or a night gown. And neither of you would mind.

REVIEW

What is it about the place? Perhaps it's the restaurants and bars, the antique shops there and in nearby Ermita, maybe even the huge population of squatters.

At the heart of all these is Remedios Circle—which used to be called Plaza de la Virgen de los Remedios—and the old buildings-turned-restaurants around it.

The man behind the landmarks now synonymous with Malate—Café Adriatico, Ang Bistro sa Remedios, Havana, Larry's Bar—is Larry J. Cruz, whose LJC Restaurant Group marked its 20 years in 1999.

It was on this occasion that the idea for "Malate: A Matter of Taste" was first broached. But what was intended to be a commemorative publication, after three years of on-off deadlines, has now become a full-blown book, co-published by Bookmark. It now goes beyond the LJC restaurants and talks about the district, the people who haunt it, and the food that people keep coming back for.

"It's by no means a definitive book about Malate," Cruz says. What it is, is a heartwarming chronicle of events and places from the 1960s to the turn-of-the-millennium.

Urban tales

Aside from insider's tales—how publishing executive Thelma Sioson San Juan and fashion designer-friend Auggie Cordero retreated from the funereal lights of Malate Catholic Church to a dim corner of Café Adriatico during the wake of designer-friend Caloy Badidoy; writer Krip Yuson on taking long cab rides from UP Diliman to Mabini, with fellow writers to down beers and listen to folk songs in the late movie director Ishmael Bernal's "When It's A Grey November In Your Soul"; then Benedictine monk Ambeth Ocampo on his first Chocolate Eh with tuna and cheese sandwich—the book also features recipes of menu favorites that have now become classic dishes.

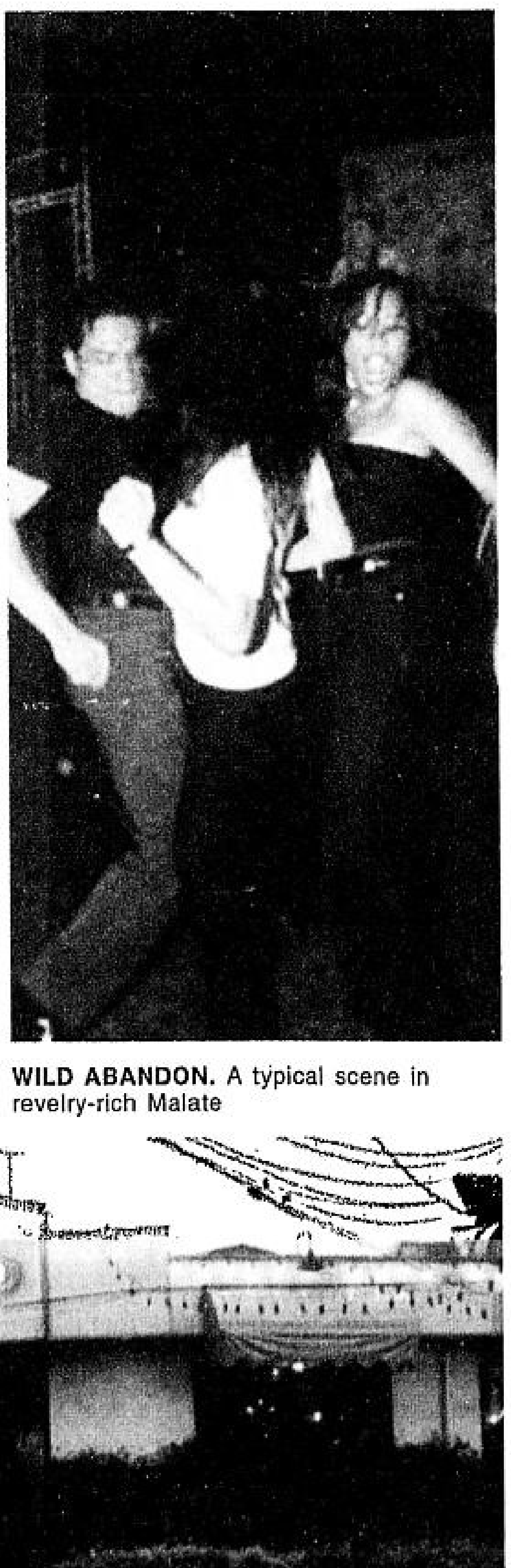
These include Coupe Adriatico, Claude's Dream I (named after Claude Tayag), Larry's Bangus Belly, Adobong Palos (à la Dolphy—it's the comedian's favorite) and Lapu-Lapu Manansala.

'It began by accident'

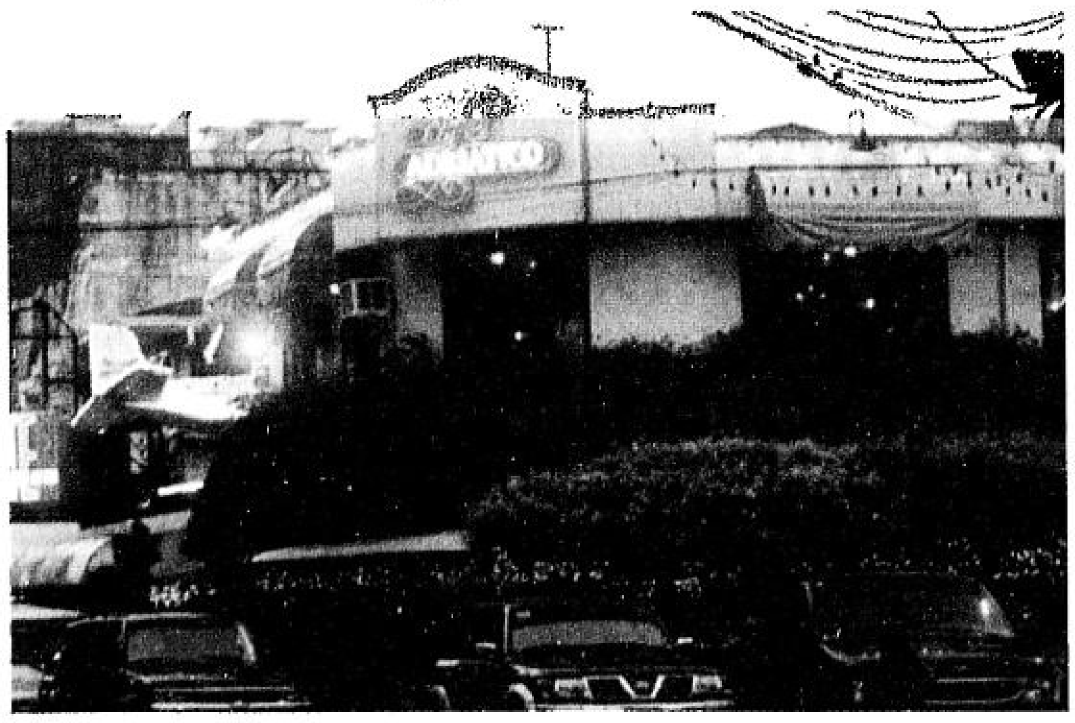
What many people don't know, says Cruz, is that his first business venture was actually a tailoring shop, in the late 1960s, with artist-friend Impy Pilapil. This was when he was into tailored suits.

Also in the 1970s, he had ABC Gallery in the old Harrison Plaza, "which at that time rivaled the Luz Gallery. We were very much into art dealing."

RESTAURATEUR Larry J. Cruz



WILD ABANDON. A typical scene in revelry-rich Malate



CAFÉ ADRIATICO. It started it all.

By 1979, Larry was leaving the government after a 12-year stint "as a Malacañang spokesman and purveyor of, ah, cultural information." He had a small antique shop called Koleksyon, right where Café Adriatico is now. It was inspired by Alice Reyes and Dick Upton's The Galleon Shop. But since he was first and foremost a collector, the business didn't do too well. It was difficult to part with his beloved purchases.

"Then somebody walked in and said, hey, this is a nice place for a restaurant or a bar. The guy was a fellow named David Sharuff and I told him it wasn't for rent. In the end, he convinced me to try it and since we weren't making a lot of money anyway in the antique shop, I thought I'd put up a restaurant. I didn't know anything about it, I was then ending my stint in the government," relates Cruz.

"We decided to put up a little money, at that time P30,000. And he began construction, which we called Jazz Box. I wanted something else but he said, no, let's put up Jazz Box, and let's have tapes on the shelf and customers can play what they want while having coffee. This was just the ground floor. The second floor was still a shanty, which was occupied by the owner of the building."

Around Christmas of 1979, Cruz was in hospital for a bad back when Sharuff called to say he wanted out, that he wanted to go to some island to find inner peace. Cruz asked his partner to stay on, with salary, to manage the restaurant. He said yes, but after a few days called again to say he couldn't even do that. "I haven't seen him since," says Cruz.

In the book, Cruz writes that the thought "I could now make my café fantasy a reality steeled me. Besides, I had no other choice. I needed to find a new source of livelihood."

He ran to his father, the late painter E. Aguilar Cruz, armed with a list of restaurant names, among them Café Vivaldi. The old man chose Café Adriatico.

"Why, I asked him. Is it because it sounds Mediterranean," Cruz says. "My father said, no, it's the name of your street." At that time, Malate was in the process of phasing out its American street names: Adriatico was Dakota, Nakpil was Vermont, and Bocobo was Nebraska.

"That was how it began, almost by accident," says Cruz.

In the New Year of 1980, journalist Julie Yap-Daza cut the ribbon, as Cruz's close friends toasted the opening of the first Café Adriatico in Malate. It was the beginning of Cruz's new future.

Café society is born

The café was a big hit among the couturiers, fashion models and Manila's who's who. Ernest Santiago's Coco Banana, the legendary gay cabaret place on Remedios Street, brought in lots of customers.

This was the 1980s, the decade of big hairdos and even bigger shoulder pads, and ladies who lunched and watched CCP galas, and the café was very busy.

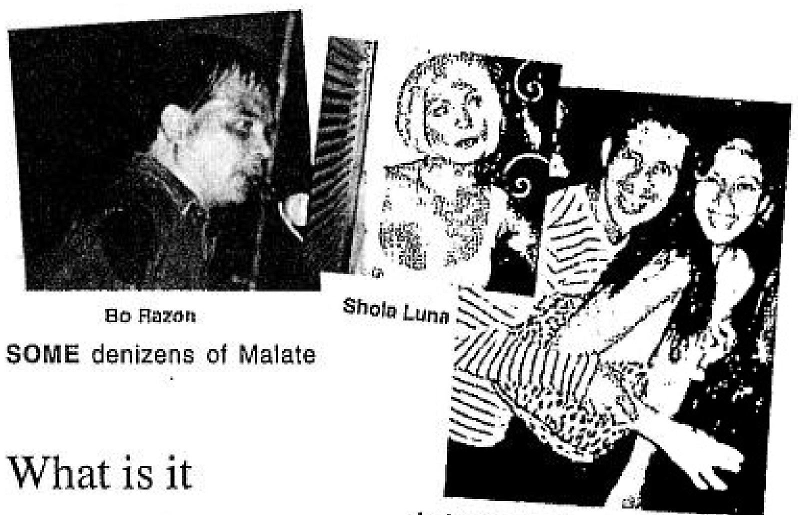
And, as Cruz writes in the book, soon, fashion designers and artists were joined by "Makati types."

"Don Jaime and Bea Zobel were often seen around as were their siblings. Bongbong and Imee Marcos queued for tables with Louie Y when they were not at the Hyatt's Circuit Disco or the Stargazer at Silahis Hotel."

In the beginning, the café's closing time was midnight. It was moved to 1 a.m., then it became 2 a.m. These days, it closes at 4 and re-opens at 7 for breakfast.

Buoyed by the café's success, Cruz soon opened an elegant upscale restaurant called Café Solana, located in the Padre Faura end of Adriatico Street. This was where the fight (then big news and, now, still good idle café talk) between painter Oscar de Zalameda and fashion designer Pitoy Moreno, allegedly over a basketball player, took place.

"Although it succeeded for a while, it was overshadowed by my third restaurant, Bistro Burgos (in Makati) which was established in January 1982. That really took off and the term bistro became very popular. It gave rise to all these restaurants who were called bistros, even non-bistros like Bistro RJ." Cruz would continue to branch outside of Malate—Bistro Lorenzo in Greenhills, another Café Adriatico in Cebu, Larry's Bar in Makati and Havana in Greenhills—all with varying results.



SOME denizens of Malate

> What is it about the place? Perhaps the bars and restos, antique shops, and even squatters. Above all, it's the casual charm

"There were successes and there were failures, all these we document in the book," says Cruz.

A couple of other LJC establishments in Malate followed, but what made a really huge impact in the latter part of the 1980s was what he tagged "Good Life Center."

It was the two-story (he eventually built a third level) retro-style building on 1900 Adriatico St., right across the café, where the upmarket Shiseido Salon was in the 1960s. When the salon closed down, Chinese restaurants, and even massage parlors, occupied it.

In 1987, Cruz opened three posh establishments, one on each floor: Prego, an Italian restaurant on the ground floor; Paper Moon, a disco, on the second; and Limelight Theater, on the third.

Malate people believe that the 1900 building is jinxed, and even Cruz's mother exhorted Larry to hire a geomancer to rid the place of negative vibes. Another person said a priest should have been asked to bless the place.

On the Good Life Center's opening night, there was no electricity because of a short-circuit, but people still partied. It was to be Malate's first-ever street party.

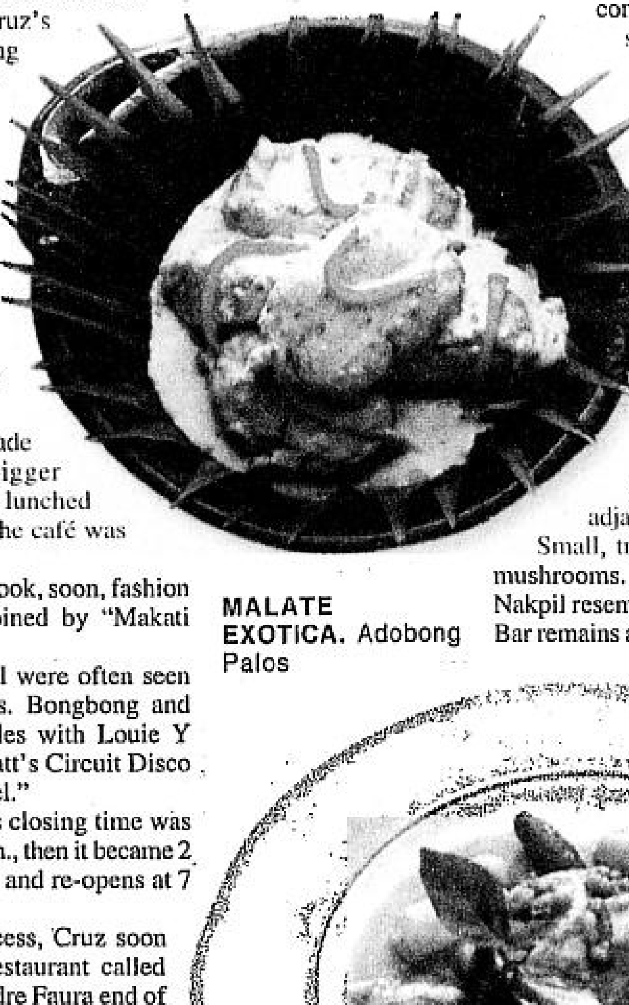
The establishments on the second and third floors didn't last very long, and Prego closed down after a few years because of a union problem. "Prego was a success. At one point there was this Robert de Niro-lookalike who would come every night and just sit outside smoking a cigar."

Keeping a loyal crowd

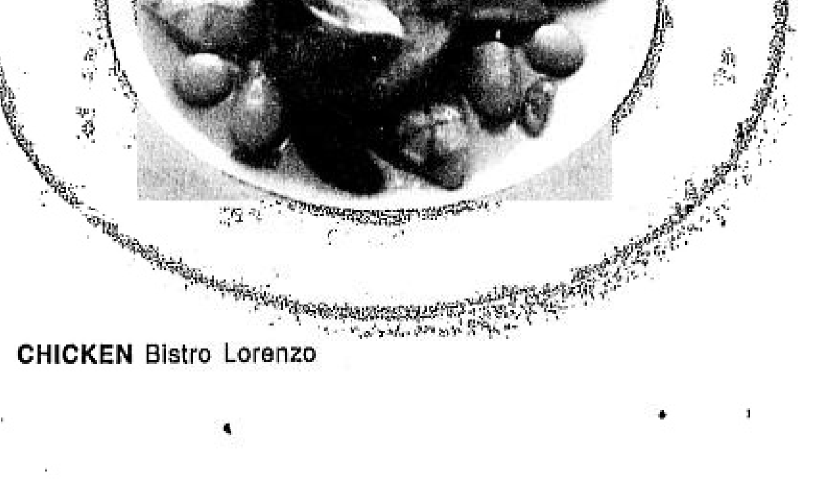
Business remained good throughout the 1980s and 1990s, even as people began drifting to Makati, partly because of the growing number of young professionals working there, and also due to the increasing traffic. What used to be a 15-minute commute between Malate and Makati took at least 45 minutes.

By the 1997, Malate became popular again—but it was on the adjacent side of Adriatico, Nakpil Street. Small, trendy establishments sprouted like mushrooms. Now that the trend has passed, Nakpil resembles a ghost town and only Episode Bar remains among

LARRY'S/p.F3



MALATE EXOTICA. Adobong Palos



CHICKEN Bistro Lorenzo

STREET parties in Malate

Larry's secret recipe

(From page F2)

the pioneers. The night life also shifted, in varying periods, to The Fort in the old Fort Bonifacio, Pan-Pacific Hotel in Adriatico, and currently, the Libis area in Quezon City.

"When we opened Havana in 1988, the action was mostly in Nakpil, but it eventually balanced out. I think we still have a stronger positioning here. We have a strong lunch crowd, which Nakpil doesn't have," says Cruz.

"We never became trendy. I deliberately avoided it. We started a trend, the bistro, the old-world look. When we opened Prego, we started off the Memphis-look...but in the end, we settled, and became serious restaurant people. We would rather keep the crowd loyal (and not succumb to trends)."

Cruz also knows the importance of reinvention, and how it is key to succeeding in the long run.

For instance, Bistro Remedios—which took the place of Ernest Santiago's two-story atelier after the fashion designer decided to turn his back on fabrics and shift to Pagsanjan, Laguna—was moved, years later, to the charming house next door that used to be the office of Metro (Cruz published the lifestyle magazine in the early 1990s, eventually selling it to the late Eugenio Lopez Jr.)

And on the old site of Bistro Remedios now sits Havana, a Cuban restaurant that is still very popular, especially among expatriates who love the party atmosphere. He got the idea after meeting with Bo Razon, who had just come back from Cuba.

Cruz says he doesn't plan or research his restaurants, that he relies on luck, and hopes the idea just comes. He adds that the high he gets from his ventures does not come from the financial returns. What he's addicted to is the conceptualization.

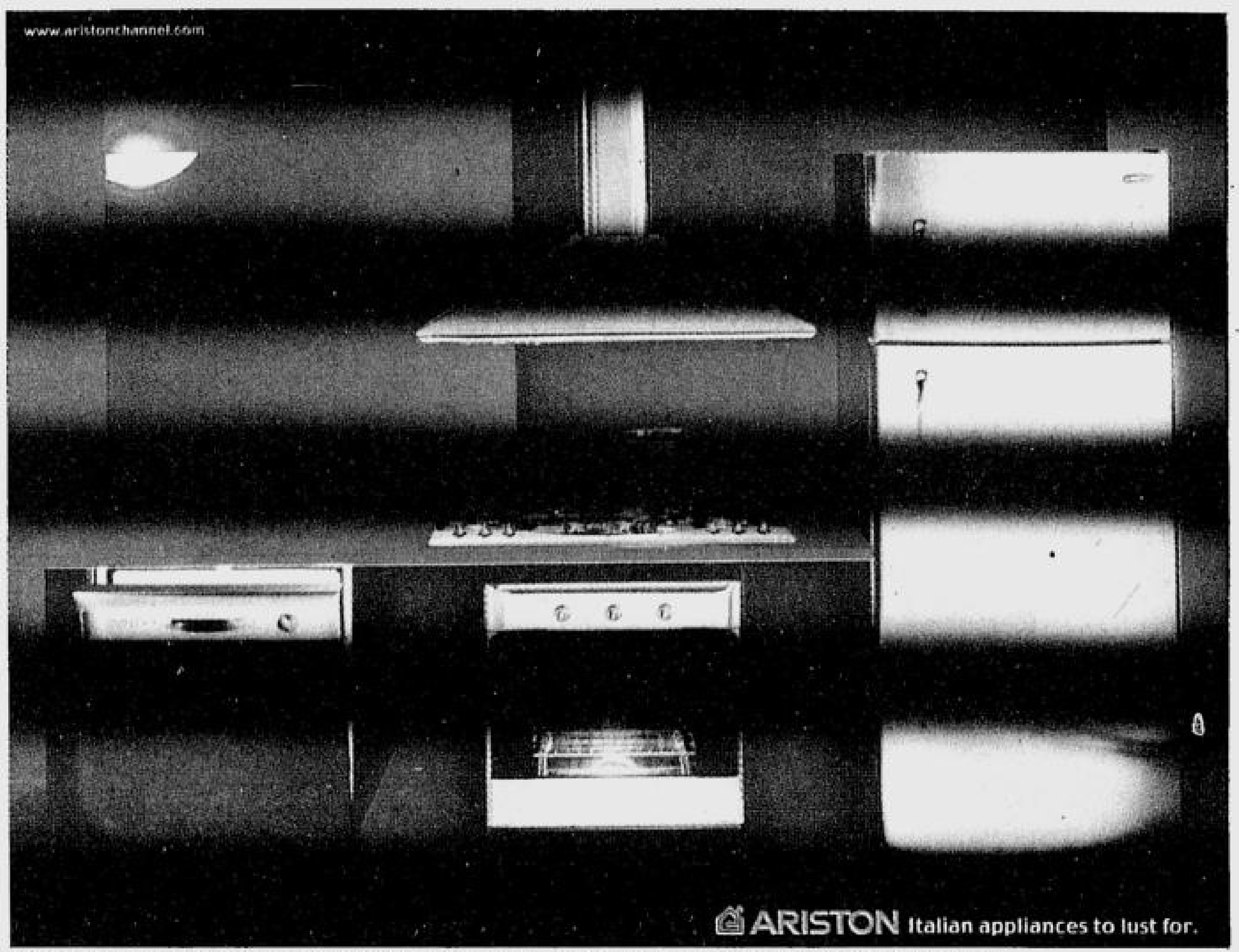
"And that's why not two of my restaurants are ever alike. I can't cook, I mean, I can cook, but not for a restaurant. But I'm an eater-outer, I know what food I want. And so, over the years and up to now, I would pass on every single dish that we offer."

Full circle

A lot of people get excited about putting up a restaurant, says Cruz. "They think operating a restaurant is the easiest thing. They think, I have the money, I can cook, or I can drink, and that's enough. They have no concept, no dedication, and that's it. But you have to concentrate on it. We have been around for so long because that's the only thing I do now."

Cruz believes that he has hit on the right formula and that's why people keep coming back. "We may not be as spic-and-span as Rockwell or Glorietta, but we have character. Unlike Makati, Malate does not have a big walking crowd. Here, you need to be known and trusted. And Malate has character."

LARRY'S/ p.F4



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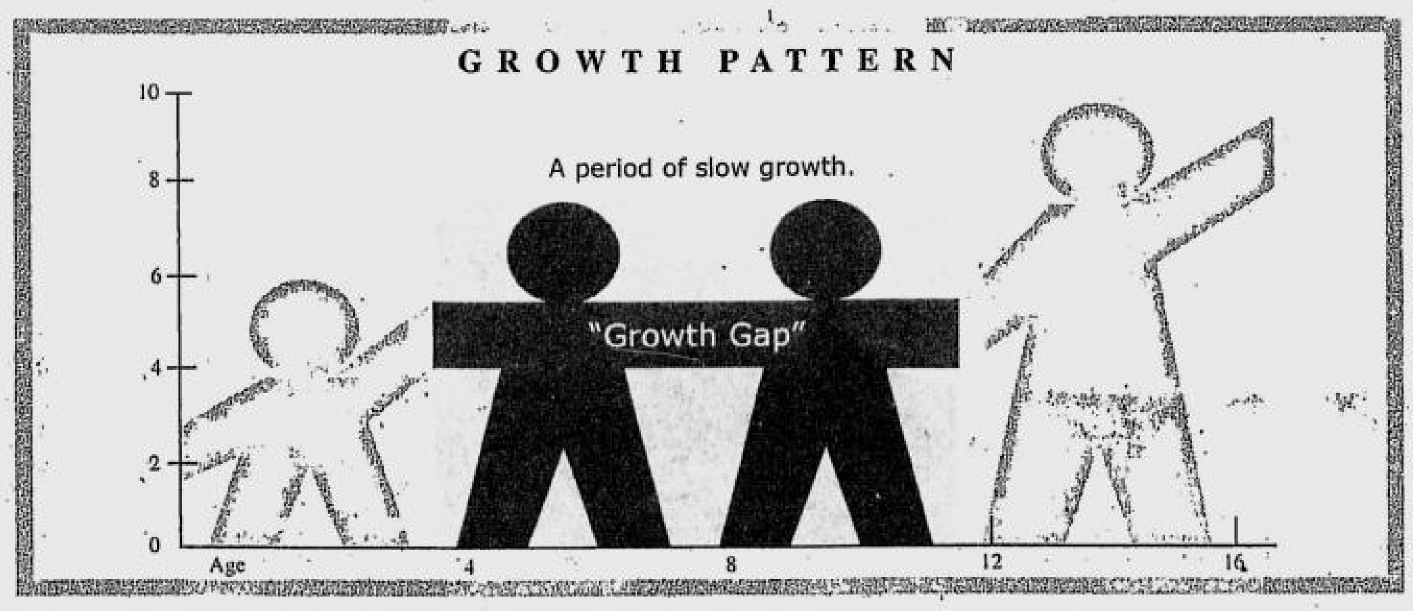
Health phenomenon:
GAP IN GROWTH RATE AMONG SCHOOL AGE KIDS.

The critical period in a child's growth happens after the toddler years. It is the stage where the amount of weight and height gained during infancy progressively lessen over the years until the child reaches puberty. This is physically evident in changes of the child's body proportion: "the head looks smaller in relation to the rest of the body, the fingers and toes grow longer and the limbs straighten out."* Increase in height is also slow, picking up only when the child enters his adolescent years.

THE A-B-C's OF SLOW GROWTH

There are many factors that affect growth, namely: genetic, environmental & social, and emotional. "If the parents are tall, it is probable that the child will also grow up to be tall. If a child hails from the upper socio-economic class, he or she has more chances of getting proper nutrition and lesser risks of sickness. Love, emotional support and security can also affect growth as they influence the growth hormones in the body."** **Increased physical activity can also hamper a child's growth for they can lose a lot of the energy they need during this stage of their lives.** Although growth varies from one child to another, the school age is still a common phase where every child experiences a slowing down in their growth.



MILK: IT GROWS ON YOU

Calling this phenomenon out is a way of letting parents know the importance of proper nutrition during the school age years. A proper meal can help the child's proper growth. As school begins, the child pays less attention to what he eats. Snacks, although delicious, can never suffice for proper nutrition. One way to help your child cope with slow growth and lack of proper nutrition during his school age years is to give him milk. Milk has been proven to be a powerful influence on a child's growth because it has calcium. Calcium & the extra proteins in milk can induce faster growth and make-up for the less nutritious food a child at this age is prone to eating, like ready-to-eat meals and fast food. **"Studies also show that people who normally have a diet rich in milk are generally taller."*****

So if your child is too old to be a toddler, yet too young to be an adolescent, make milk a vital part in his diet. Because milk can spell the difference for his growth during the school age years.

* [illegible]
** Prof. [illegible], Dept. of Family Life & Child Development, University of the Philippines
*** Prof. [illegible], Dept. of Family Life & Child Development, University of the Philippines
**** Sinclair/David & Peter Dangerfield. HUMAN GROWTH AFTER BIRTH. Oxford University Press, Oxford 1998, p.157-158

Larry's secret recipe

(From page F3)

"Sure we get Makati people here, too, but these are really Malate people at heart," he adds.

For many, Malate has indeed become part of their system. It's a place they keep coming back to, notwithstanding change of provenance or careers.

And for some, it has even become a family tradition. "I see the children of people who used to go to Café Adriatico, and they're sitting in the same tables and ordering the same food that their parents were eating," says Cruz.

Today, the Remedios Circle landscape is undergoing yet another change. The ugly building that was built to replace the charming Moviola Café of the late 1980s now houses Politixx Café.

The upscale Edgar Ramirez furniture house, another Circle landmark and an experience in itself as you wait for the metal blinds to roll up in the morning to reveal the beautiful period pieces, now has a Zagu outlet and will soon be torn down for a five-story building. Across it, yet another construction is ongoing.

On the LJC side, the 1900 Café Adriatico is currently under renovation. And what used to be Larry's Bar, on the second floor of what is now Bistro Remedios, has been turned into the Filipino Bookstore.

Cruz is excited about opening a Brazilian restaurant next year—this time in the new Greenbelt. And there's also a surprise in store when the new 1900 opens.

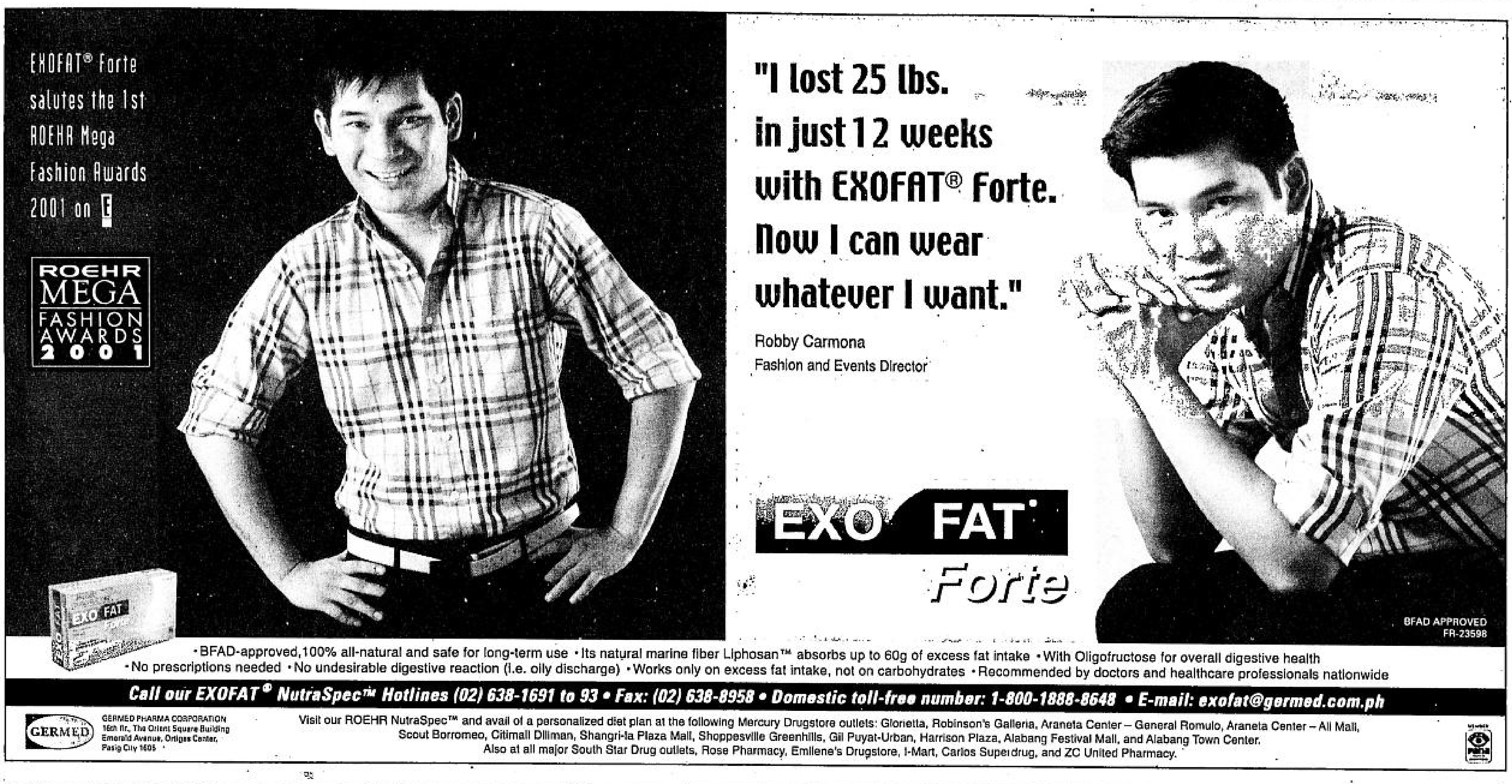
He has also resurrected his first venture in the 1970s, ABC Gallery, which is bundled together with an antiques and furniture shop, on the same building as Bistro Remedios. Déjà vu? Is it fate or coincidence that the man who transformed Remedios Circle has, himself, now gone full circle?

"Malate: A Matter of Taste" will be launched on Halloween night at Bistro Remedios.

Self-made millionaire is author of the month

ROBERT Kiyosaki

"THE BIGGEST mistake people make is they learn to work for money but never learn to make money work for them," says National Bookstore author of the month Robert Kiyosaki, a finance author, lecturer, entrepreneur and self-made millionaire. Born and raised in Hawaii, Kiyosaki, a Japanese-American, came from a prominent family of educators. His real father was a highly educated man but was fiscally poor. His "other father," the father of his best friend, was a dropout who became a millionaire. Kiyosaki created innovative products and co-founded an international education company teaching business to thousands. His bestseller, "Rich Dad, Poor Dad," written with Sharon L. Lecher, lays out his money philosophy. It has spawned several sequels such as "Rich Dad's Cash Flow Quadrant," and "Rich Dad's Guide to Investing," which are available at all National Bookstore branches.



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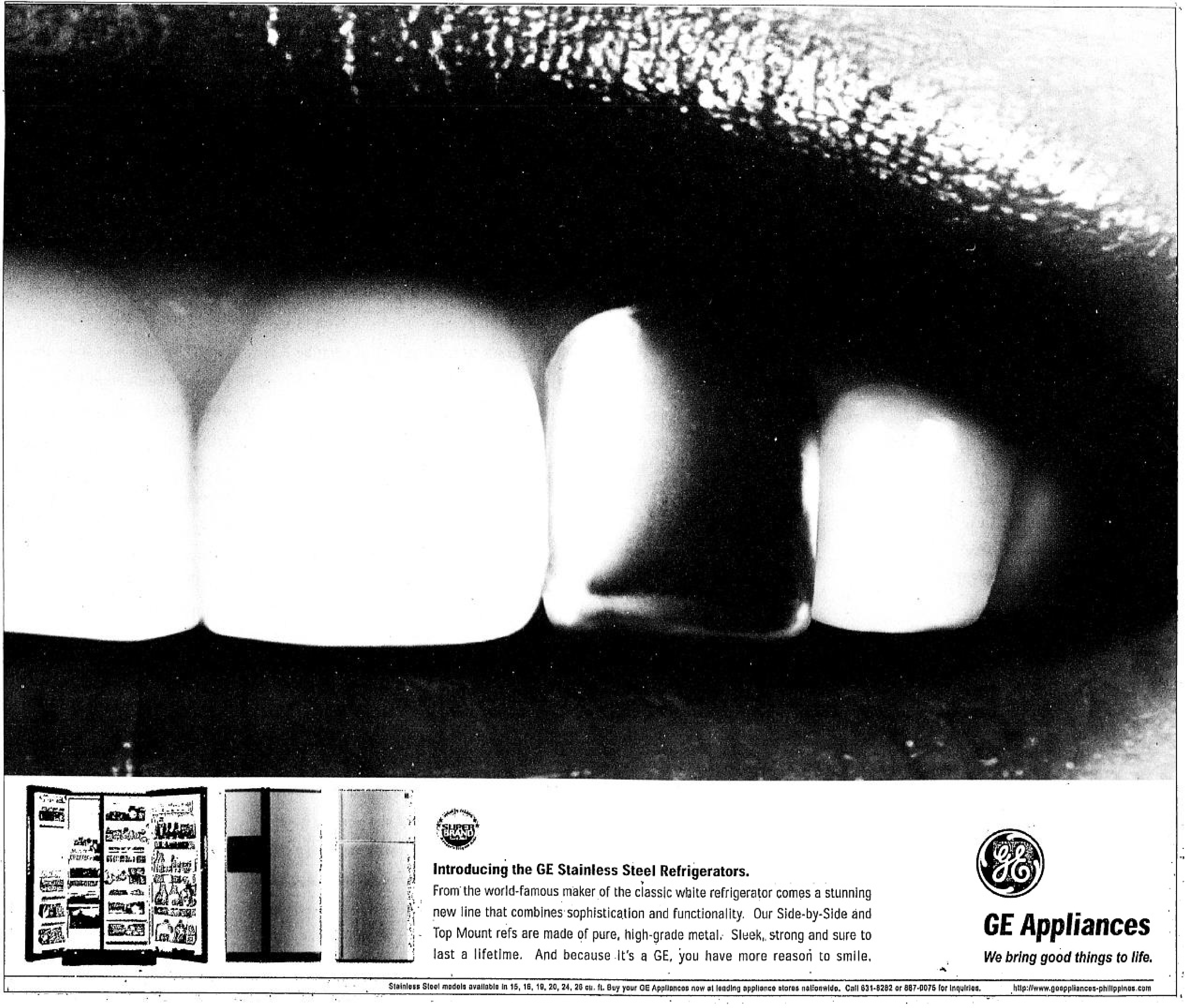

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INFOTECH
LEO MAGNO, Editor

'No conspiracy' behind RP gov't portal redesign, says developer

BY JOEY G. ALARILLA

REACTING to the controversy over the revamped Philippine government portal at www.gov.ph, the company behind the new design said they completed the project in good faith after being tapped by their client Microsoft Philippines.

Softrigger Interactive chief executive and Web architect Gadjo Cardenas Sevilla also said in a statement that his company was not privy to the decision to apparently not inform the original developer of the www.gov.ph site, k2inter[a]ctive Philippines, of the changeover.

Sevilla claimed that Softrigger has suffered from the flak caused by the site changeover.

"The day the new portal was live, our company received hate mail from the former developers of the portal as well as e-mail viruses from anonymous individuals using bogus e-mail accounts, which we have kept as reference for anyone to review," Sevilla claimed.

Sevilla said that it was unfair for the company to be "vilified for its efforts" when it only performed its commitment to its client and the government.

"If you dig deeper, you will see that there is no conspiracy in this situation but only the desire to give our country a functional and effective online tool from which each and every Filipino can benefit," Sevilla said.

According to Sevilla, Softrigger was merely tapped by Microsoft Philippines for the project.

"First of all, I want to state that both Bitstop Computers and Softrigger Interactive offered their services pro bono for this project.

In the case of Softrigger Interactive, we were tapped by our client Microsoft Philippines to quickly create a comprehensive portal for the Philippine government.

"This was an opportunity for us to serve despite having only less than two weeks to finish a 600-page portal with all the functionality needed to run on the Microsoft platform (this was necessary because the Sona monitor was developed with Microsoft technology and would not be able to work with open source technology)," Sevilla said.

Sevilla was referring to the software system designed to monitor updates on the promises made by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo during her State of the Nation Address.

This is one of the features of the www.gov.ph design, which is aimed at increasing transparency and facilitating the delivery of government services.

In Shanghai, Ms Macapagal and Microsoft chair Bill Gates witnessed the signing of three memoranda of understanding (MOU), including an MOU between the Presidential Management Staff (PMS), under the Office of the President,

'NO CONSPIRACY' /p.G2

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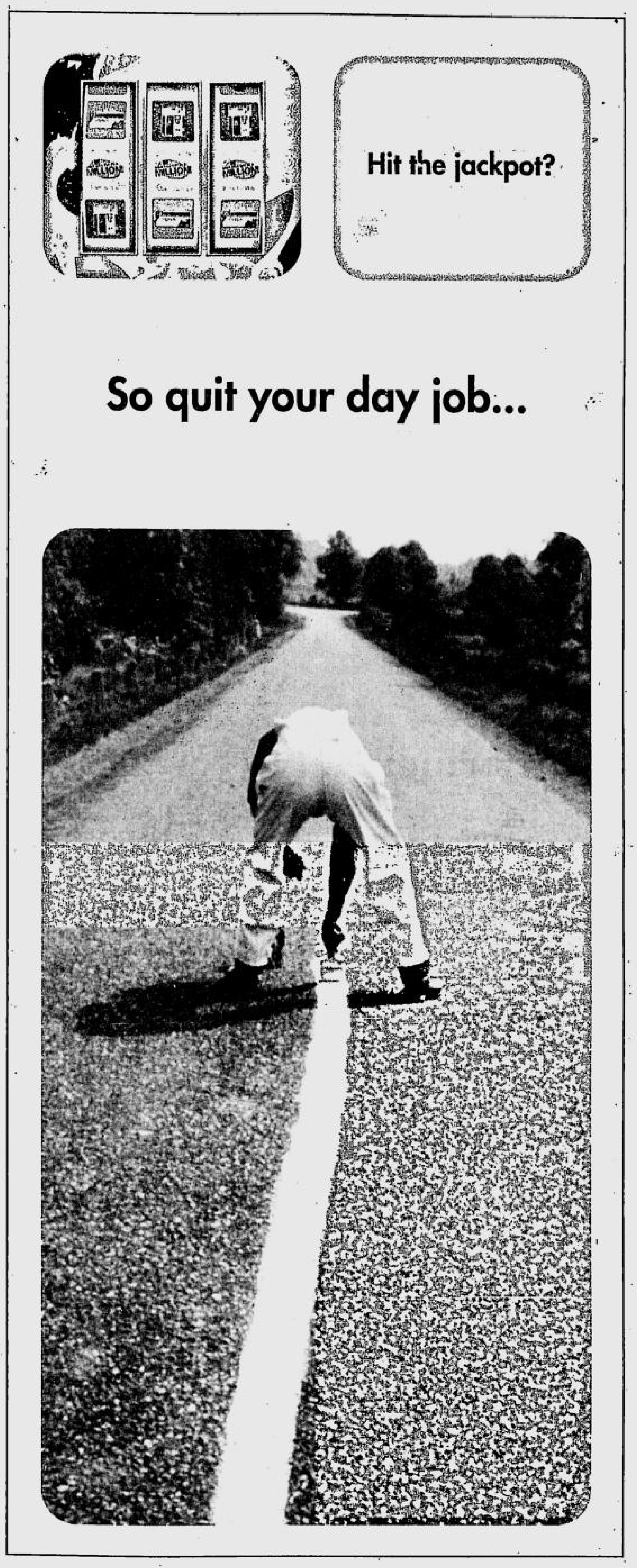
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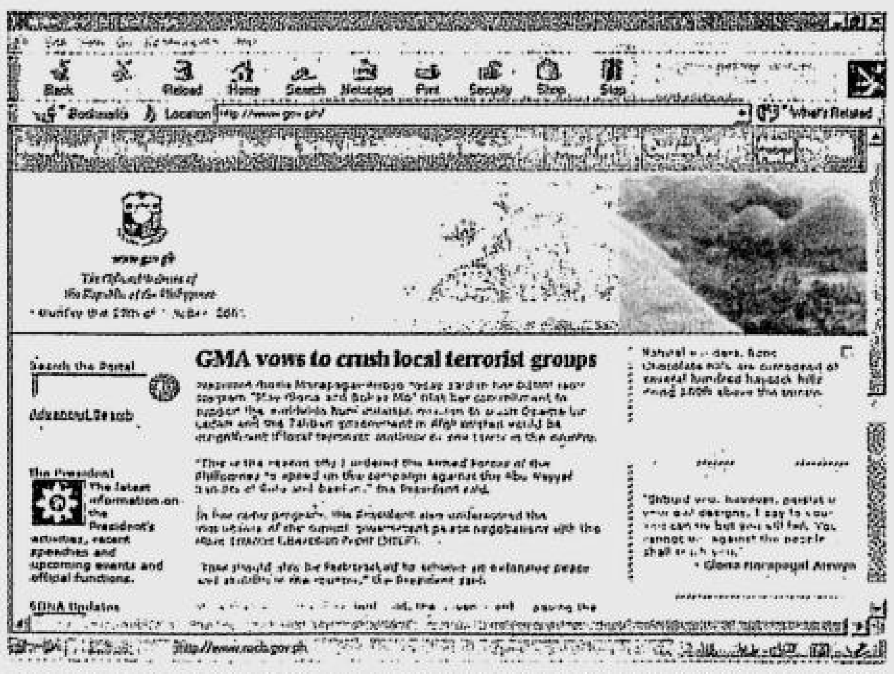
No hand in gov't portal controversy–Microsoft

BY ERWIN OLIVA



GMA vows to crush local terrorist groups

THE DEVELOPMENT and revamp of the government's Internet portal has been surrounded by controversy *(See main story on page G1).*

MICROSOFT Philippines did not influence the government's decision to redesign the official Philippine government portal at www.gov.ph, officials said Tuesday.

"No one influenced their decision as far as Microsoft is concerned," Mae Rivera, marketing communications manager of MS Philippines said. "It was the government's choice."

Microsoft Philippines, however, began working with the Presidential Management Staff (PMS) on a Web-based system that monitors the President's pledges in her State of the Nation Address (Sona) as early as Aug. 9, Mark Yambot, marketing director of MS Philippines, said.

The memorandum of understanding signed between President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Bill Gates in Shanghai last week was a formal acceptance of the agreement sealed by the PMS and Microsoft Philippines earlier, Rivera added.

The Sona monitoring system, which is now up at www.gov.ph, uses Microsoft's software technology called SharePoint, Yambot said. SharePoint is a software that allows organizations to collaborate, communicate and share documents through a secure and Web-based system, which is often dubbed as a portal.

"The Sona monitoring tool was meant to update the public on the tasks assigned to government agencies by the President in her pledges in the Sona," Yambot said, adding that MS Philippines also developed this system pro bono.

The Sona monitoring system was presented by Microsoft Philippines to the Cabinet on Aug. 14, he said.

An industry source who declined to be named said that the Microsoft-based Sona monitoring system apparently could not work well with the original government portal design because it was running on open source software.

Open source software is usually developed as a public collaboration and made freely available.

"(So) government needed to purchase middleware (a type of software that serves to glue together or mediate between two separate and usually already existing programs) that will integrate the Sona monitoring system with the government portal. And the government needs to pay for the middleware," the source said.

The source said that government might have found it easier to shift to a Microsoft platform to allow the Sona monitoring system to work with the new design than to buy the middleware.

Originally developed based on open source software, www.gov.ph switched Thursday to a Microsoft-based design following the official launch two weeks ago.

This development surprised and even disappointed the original developers from the private sector, k2inter[a]ctive Philippines (k2ia) which had volunteered its services for free and successfully finished the site with a two-month turnaround.

The new www.gov.ph now runs on Microsoft server technology, and is being hosted by Bitstop Computers, a Dagupan-based Internet service provider and Microsoft technology partner.

Gov't brings Net to Caraga region

BY ERWIN OLIVA

THROUGH a P14-million grant from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) and the Canadian International Development Agency, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) has recently implemented its "Internet sa Barangay" program in select areas in the Caraga region.

The Caraga region, which is a collective description of several provinces and cities in northeast of Mindanao, includes Agusan del Sur, Agusan del Norte, Surigao del Sur, Surigao del Norte, Butuan City, Bislig and Surigao City.

With the aim of bringing information technology to the grass roots, the science department has set up pilot "multipurpose community telecenters" in Maginda, Butuan City and in Jaliobong, Agusan del Norte, according to Angelito Alolod, regional director of DOST's regional office XIII, also known as the Caraga region.

Two more will be constructed in Lanao del Norte.

The multi-community telecenters contain two computers, which are hooked up to the Internet, video facilities, a public address system, educational tapes and interactive CD-ROMS.

Alolod said that the telecenters are currently using the telephone infrastructure of the Department of Transportation and Communications' "Telepono sa Barangay" program.

"The telecenter presently serves as an 'entertainment' center for the local folks, a place where people can send e-mail to relatives abroad, and a learning center for teachers," Alolod, who attended the recent Unesco ICT training in Manila, said.

Alolod pointed out that the telecenters will need to be self-sustaining because they cannot forever depend on grants from foreign agencies. The telecenters charge fees for the use of its facilities.

The multipurpose community telecenter is a project conceptualized by the Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD) under the name "Connecting People and Organizations through the Establishment of Pilot Multipurpose Communty Telecenters (MCT) in Selected Philippine Barangays."

The telecenter aims to develop an information resource center that will operate like a library, which may contain print and non-print material produced by the partner agencies.

It also hopes to build digital sources of information on health, education, agriculture and rural enterprise development at the national, provincial and municipal levels.

The Caraga region is composed of over 300,000 hectares of agricultural land and 300,000 hectares for industrial tree plantations. It has been the ideal place for agriculture-based industries.

Oracle launches newest Java application server

ORACLE Corp. recently announced its newest transactional application server in the market utilizing Java technology.

By dramatically reducing the amount of disk space, memory and processor power required to run Java applications, Oracle has delivered a breakthrough in Java technology that makes the new Oracle9i Application Server (Oracle9iAS) faster to install, develop, and deploy Internet applications.

For Oracle customers, these enhancements mean that for any given Internet application requirement—whether an e-commerce storefront, personalized portal, online Web service, or transactional business application—Oracle9iAS allows them to slash hardware costs and reduce complexity.

Oracle also announced the Java 2 Enterprise Edition (J2EE) certification of Oracle9iAS.

Java's portability and productivity, while offering tremendous benefits to developers, has generally required significant computing resources for deployment.

To address this problem, Oracle has focused on delivering the industry's lightest, most efficient J2EE server.

As part of this effort, Oracle licensed high performance J2EE technology from IronFlare, a Swedish company, and integrated it into Oracle9iAS.

With its compact new Java engine, Oracle9iAS offers a significantly lighter memory footprint.

Oracle9iAS also requires very little disk space and can be installed in as little as five minutes.

In addition to its smaller disk and memory requirements, the new Oracle9iAS has been optimized for extremely fast Java code execution.

In tests conducted by Oracle, Oracle9iAS consistently outperformed other leading application servers on performance measurements running Enterprise JavaBeans (EJB), Java servlets, and JavaServer Pages (JSP).

Oracle tested a variety of different applications, including Sun's industry-standard Java Pet Store, ECPerf and various transactional JSP applications.

On average, the results showed that Oracle9iAS ran two to four times faster than other popular application servers.

To enable developers to try out the new Oracle9iAS and do their own benchmarking, Oracle will be providing a free download of the new Oracle9iAS Containers for Java, posting test application code and detailing the performance results of its own tests on the Oracle Technology Network website.

Dell appoints new RP country manager

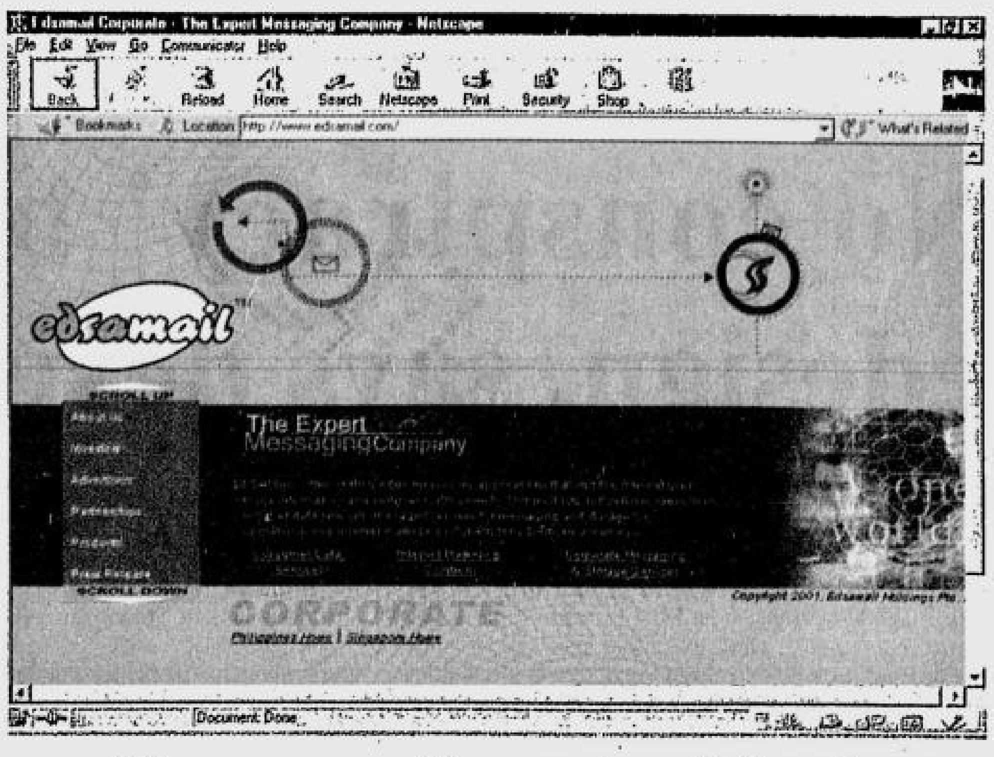
BIDDING to strengthen its position in the local market, leading direct computer systems and services provider Dell has appointed a new country manager in the Philippines.

Dell announced in a press statement that Ireen Go Catane is the new Philippine country manager. Catane will assume overall management responsibilities for Dell's business in the Philippines and will report directly to Jimmy Yam, managing director for the South Asia/Developing Markets Group of Dell Asia Pacific.

"Ireen's excellent track record and standing in the IT industry makes her the perfect candidate to drive growth in the commercial and enterprise market segments in the Philippines," Yam said in the statement.

"Her sharp understanding of the market will see her seizing every opportunity to capitalize on the proven Dell built-to-order business model," he added.

Catane comes to Dell from Hewlett-Packard Philippines Corp., where she was most recently country manager for Commercial Customer Business. *INQ7.net*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Free e-mail service bleeds, but recovery seen next year

BY ERWIN OLIVA

FREE e-mail service provider Edsamail Philippines Inc. recently admitted that it is not yet making money after over a year of operations.

"We're not making any money on our services alone. Currently, online advertising is our bread and butter," Margarita Torres, general manager of Edsamail, said. "But we expect to be in the black by February next year."

Torres declined to disclose the company's sales revenues for this year.

Established in February 2000, Edsamail is a Filipino company that offers free dial-up access for sending and checking e-mail using proprietary software developed in-house.

For more than a year, the company's subscribers have grown from zero to 700,000, according to Torres.

Aiming to break even by yearend, Edsamail launched its paid service called MyEdsamail this year.

MyEdsamail offers additional e-mail storage space, 4 hours of "free" Web surfing, virus protection and access to a Web-based version of Edsamail.

Currently, Edsamail allows subscribers without Internet connection to send and receive e-mail.

Torres expects around 47 percent of its 700,000 subscribers to migrate to its paid service by 2002.

"They will want storage, virus protection, and surfing, plus version 2.0 of Edsamail," she said.

By next year, Torres said that Edsamail expects to generate added revenues from Managed Services for Messaging and Storage—an e-mail hosting and connectivity service for small to medium enterprises and corporations.

Edsamail's pre-paid Internet card service is also generating "a lot of interest" in Singapore, Torres said.

The company introduced the pre-paid Internet concept in Singapore last week.

Torres said that Edsamail has begun selling the pre-paid Internet cards, called MySurfCard, in that country for 25 Singapore dollars. "There is a strong interest among travelers in-bound to Singapore," she added.

Edsamail plans to expand to Malaysia and Australia in the next few years.

Apec adopts plan for threefold increase in Net usage by 2005

SHANGHAI—Pacific Rim leaders are backing a plan to triple the number of Internet users in the region by 2005 as a means to galvanize economic growth, officials said Friday.

The "eApec Strategy" was submitted by Australian, Chinese and US officials to the leaders of the 21-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) forum meeting in Shanghai.

The document, which identifies a three-point plan to expand Internet usage, will be released on Sunday as part of the annual Apec leaders' declaration on trade and economic issues, officials told a news conference in Shanghai.

US State Department envoy to Apec, Lawrence Greenwood, said the three areas were: "Getting the basic market policies right, getting a regulatory framework in place which will support info-technologies and e-business, and three, capacity building."

"Success in developing the new economy is not about purely developing info-technologies, but it is about getting the basic fundamental policies such as fiscal-financial policy, trade policy and regulatory policy right," he said.

The strategy develops a goal declared at last year's Apec summit in Brunei of tripling Internet access in the Asia-Pacific region by 2005.

"The eApec strategy is setting a com-prehensive framework to pursue that goal," said Pamela Fayle, deputy secretary of Australia's foreign and trade ministry.

"We all know that it will require lots of infrastructure, training and education," she said.

But the potential economic benefits of implementing the strategy are large.

"We calculated that Apec economies can reduce transaction costs by $60 billion a year in implementing paperless trading between Apec economies," Fayle said.

The Internet plan is part of a broader drive to liberalize Apec markets for information technology and telecommunications, and needs to be backed by a legal framework to protect consumer rights, Greenwood said. *AFP*

'No conspiracy'. . . (Frome page G1)

and Microsoft Philippines. Microsoft Philippines pledged to assist the PMS in deploying and managing a knowledge-based system that will monitor the progress of Sona projects.

Sevilla said that after being tapped by its client Microsoft Philippines, Softrigger recommended Dagupan-based Bitstop as the new host for the redesigned government portal. Bitstop, an Internet service provider (ISP), is an accredited Microsoft technology partner in the Philippines and a leading provider of streaming media solutions.

"The move to Bitstop's servers was suggested by us on the merit that the Philippine government portal should reside in a local company's server and not overseas, which by the way, was where the first iteration of the portal, created by k2ia, was hosted.

Furthermore, Bitstop is known to be one of the most efficient, secure and advanced ISPs as they are running on Akamai technology which could handle the heavy traffic expected for a portal such as this one.

"The client, in this case, the Office of the President, has the initiative of choosing which provider and Web developer to entrust their content, which they own. While we are not privy as to why there was a miscommunication regarding the change to the former developer, the Office of the President made its final decision," Sevilla said.

In an earlier interview, k2ia Philippines managing director Ruben Ravago said that the decision to have the portal hosted in the United States was a temporary measure since the project was done pro bono.

"We decided to do that mostly for cost concerns. This is a volunteer project and this is pro bono for k2ia," Ravago said. "Also, US sites are generally easier to be reached from here (in the Philippines)."

In light of the controversy surrounding the site revamp, k2ia Philippines issued an official company statement after an earlier story was published at INQ7.net, the online edition of the INQUIRER.

"K2ia was informed by several third parties last week that the government portal (www.gov.ph) had been replaced by a new site on a different platform using k2ia's site structure, interface and content specifications. We would like to state that it was the Philippine government's prerogative to decide on this course of action since the site was officially turned over to the Office of the Press Secretary nearly two weeks ago. Still, the turn of events is disheartening, to say the least, since so much effort had been put into the development of the site by k2ia personnel. Manhours spent on the project were significant and constituted a day-and-night schedule fueled by a combination of determination and a desire to contribute to nation-building," according to the statement.

The statement noted that one of k2ia's original objectives for the www.gov.ph project was "to encourage the development of a non-proprietary and cost-effective foundation for the GMA administration's e-governance initiatives."

"As of today, 22 October, we are still waiting for official notice of the change from the appropriate agencies attached to the Office of the President," according to the statement.

K2ia, however, stated that it still believes in the vision of the government portal.

"Finally, we would like to state for the record that we still believe in www.gov.ph. We may not agree with certain decisions and compromises that were made, but we abide by the collective wisdom of the powers-that-be. We sincerely hope the government's new technology partner will help them truly realize this dream of e-governance. It is a worthy endeavor and we're grateful for having been invited to participate in it as volunteers and co-nation builders," k2ia said in the statement.

AyalaPort data center won't compete with Globe–official

BY JOEL D. PINAROC

AYALAPORT, the data center project of the Ayala Group, will initially concentrate on the internal needs of the conglomerate, though external clients have reportedly signed up for the data center services.

"AyalaPort will first service the Ayala Group, but as early as now, we already have external clients. Aside from the Philippine market, we are looking at the Asian and US markets for our data center services," said Mark John Javier, president of AyalaPort, during the formal launch of the company on Thursday.

Javier, however, declined to name AyalaPort's existing and prospective clients.

Telecommunications firm Globe Telecom, which is also a part of the Ayala Group, also has its own data center initiative. Javier, however, said that AyalaPort would "not compete" with but instead would "complement" Globe's data center services.

He said there is no need to eventually merge the data center services of Globe and AyalaPort. Javier explained that AyalaPort would be carrier-neutral, since companies would have to avail of the services of telecommunications firms for the actual network infrastructure. Companies can avail of the services of all major telecommunications firms, since AyalaPort is built around a fiber-optic backbone, Javier said.

AyalaPort, worth an estimated P1 billion, is a joint effort of the Ayala Group's Ayala Corp.; iAyala; Ayala Land Inc. and its subsidiary Alinet.com; and the group's foreign partner, the Internet Initiative of Japan Group (IIJG).

The Ayala Group will have a 62 percent stake in AyalaPort while IIJG, reportedly the leading data center provider in Japan, will own the remaining 38 percent.

AyalaPort will reportedly offer various data center services as well as Internet presence, via shared Web hosting.

A data center essentially houses, stores, maintains, manages and protects data relevant to the operations of companies ranging from large multinationals to small- to medium-size enterprises or SMEs. Companies via dedicated and presumably secure networks can utilize and access the data center.

Javier said AyalaPort will be operating "in the red" but will be profitable in two to three years.

"Our projections is that we will be operating from 'red to black' in about two to three years, as this is the typical time-table for companies like ours to generate revenues," Javier said.

The data center, a 9,200-square meter facility located in Makati, is now up and running.

Aberigo M. Merin, general manager of AyalaPort, said the facility, which will operate 24x7, is at par with data centers found around the world, particularly in Japan and Los Angeles.

In terms of platforms, he said clients need only to identify their software and hardware requirements and that AyalaPort will be ready to support these needs.

"We will be supporting software platforms from Windows NT, Unix, Linux and AS 400 on the software side and hardware from almost all hardware vendors," Merin said.

The data center will also have the latest in security, which AyalaPort emphasized has been the prime requirement of companies wanting to utilize a data center.

"We have a multilevel approach in providing security for the data center," said Albertito R. Castro, AyalaPort's head of sales and marketing.

Castro said the data center have physical security protocols such as biometrics and proximity cards, as well as personal identification number security features. To further avoid internal security threats, the data center also has door sensors that prevent unauthorized individuals from "tailgating" into secure areas.

Inquiries on disaster recovery, one of the data center services AyalaPort offers, have increased due to the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States, company officials claim.

Officials say numerous banks and other financial institutions based in the Philippines and abroad have expressed interest in availing of disaster recovery services due to what is perceived as a slightly "unstable" global market, as an aftereffect of the US attacks.

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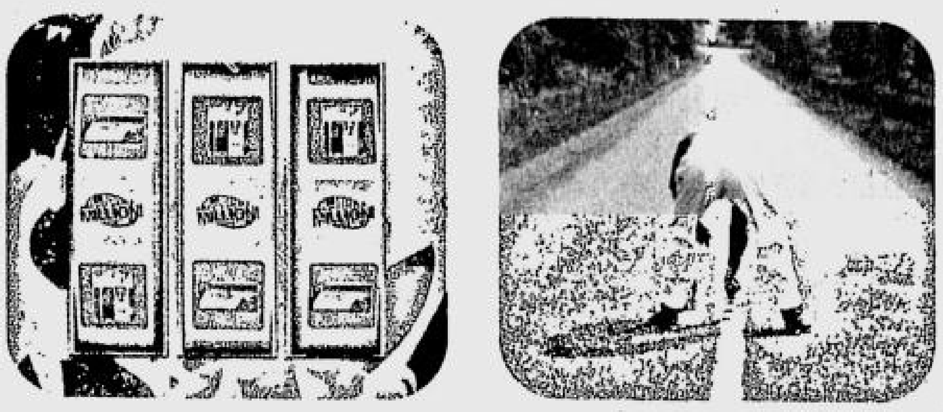

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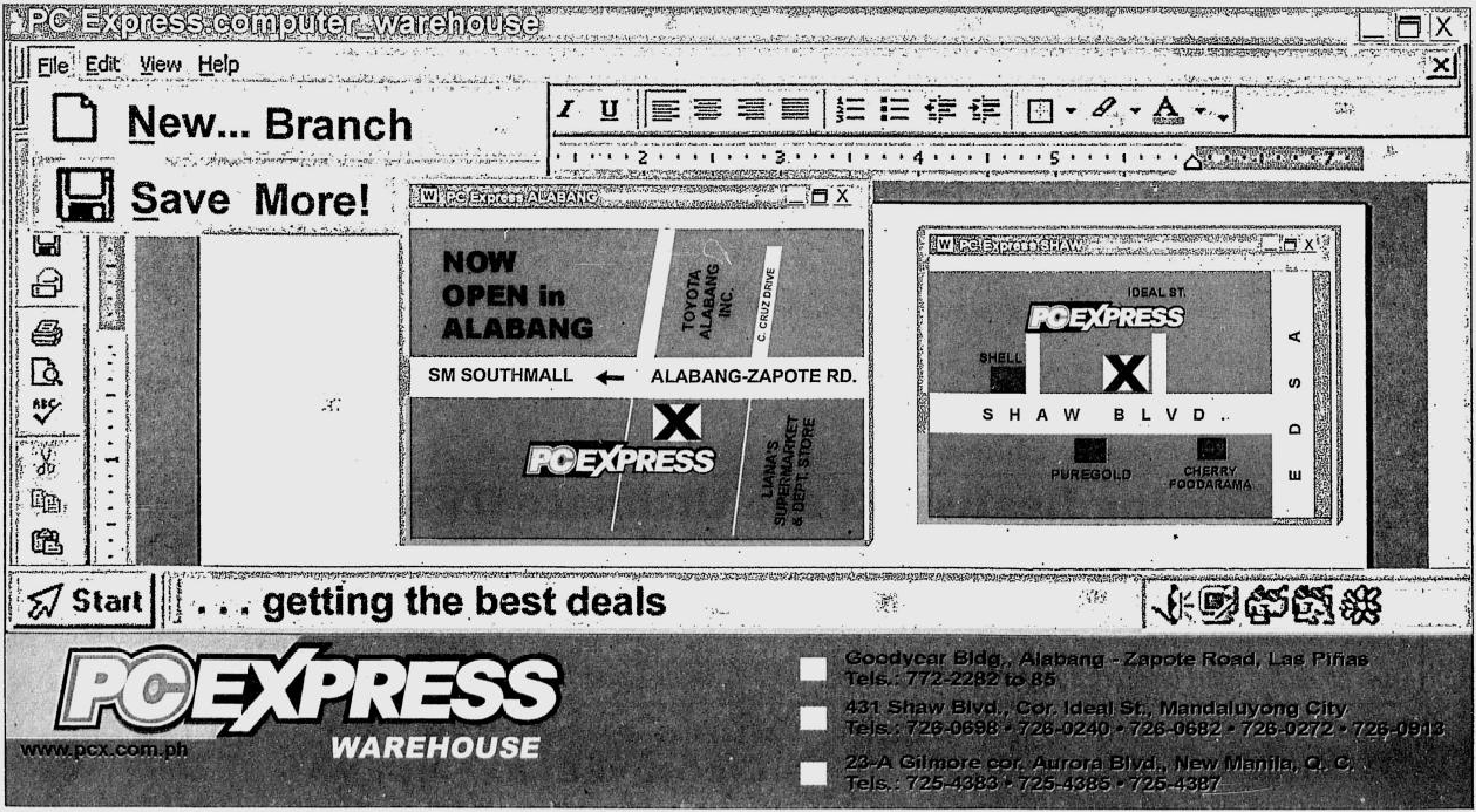

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Splashy debut for Windows XP

NEW YORK—A splashy kickoff featuring acrobats and fire-eaters marked the official debut Thursday of the Windows XP operating system, seen by the ailing computer industry as a cure for its worst-ever slump.

But despite the glitz, some industry analysts say the more powerful version of Windows—the system used on some 90 percent of the world's computers—will have a relatively small impact on the industry.

Windows XP is "a milestone not only for Microsoft, it's also an industry milestone," chair Bill Gates said at the launch at a Times Square hotel in a scene with music and flashbacks on a giant screen.

"With the launch of Windows XP, we are entering an exciting new era of personal computing."

The ceremony began with a solemn church choir rendition in honor of the victims of Sept. 11.

But the solemnity quickly gave way to celebration as acrobats, jugglers and fire-eating entertainers performed in Times Square for the launch while Madonna's "Ray of Light," which is being used in the advertising, was played in the background at the kickoff ceremony. And pop star Sting played a free concert in nearby Bryant Park afterwards.

In the Netherlands, taxicabs painted in Windows XP themes gave free rides to passengers; in Mexico, entire buses were painted in XP colors; and in Australia, the all-female pop band Bardot joined the festivities for the world's biggest software firm.

But while many are hoping that the release of Windows XP will boost computer sales, the jury is out on whether the new upgrade will be enough to lift the slumping PC market.

Gartner Dataquest, a prominent technology market research group, predicted the new operating system will have little impact on computer sales—projecting a 13 percent decline in global PC sales in the fourth quarter compared with a year ago.

"Although Windows XP offers solid technology, Microsoft's ability to push the rest of the PC market has lessened, and it will not be able to overcome a slow economy and market saturation," said Dataquest's Charles Smulders.

"The release of Windows XP will only mildly affect new PC sales, with the majority being replacements of old systems at the end of their lives."

Still, Microsoft and its partners including chipmaker Intel are spending $1 billion in the industry's biggest product launch ever.

The launch of XP (a play on the word "eXPerience") also marks Microsoft's first major product campaign since its bruising, still ongoing US antitrust battle. It also faces the possibility of stiff fines from a parallel probe in the European Union. Individual US states are also contemplating antitrust actions against the company.

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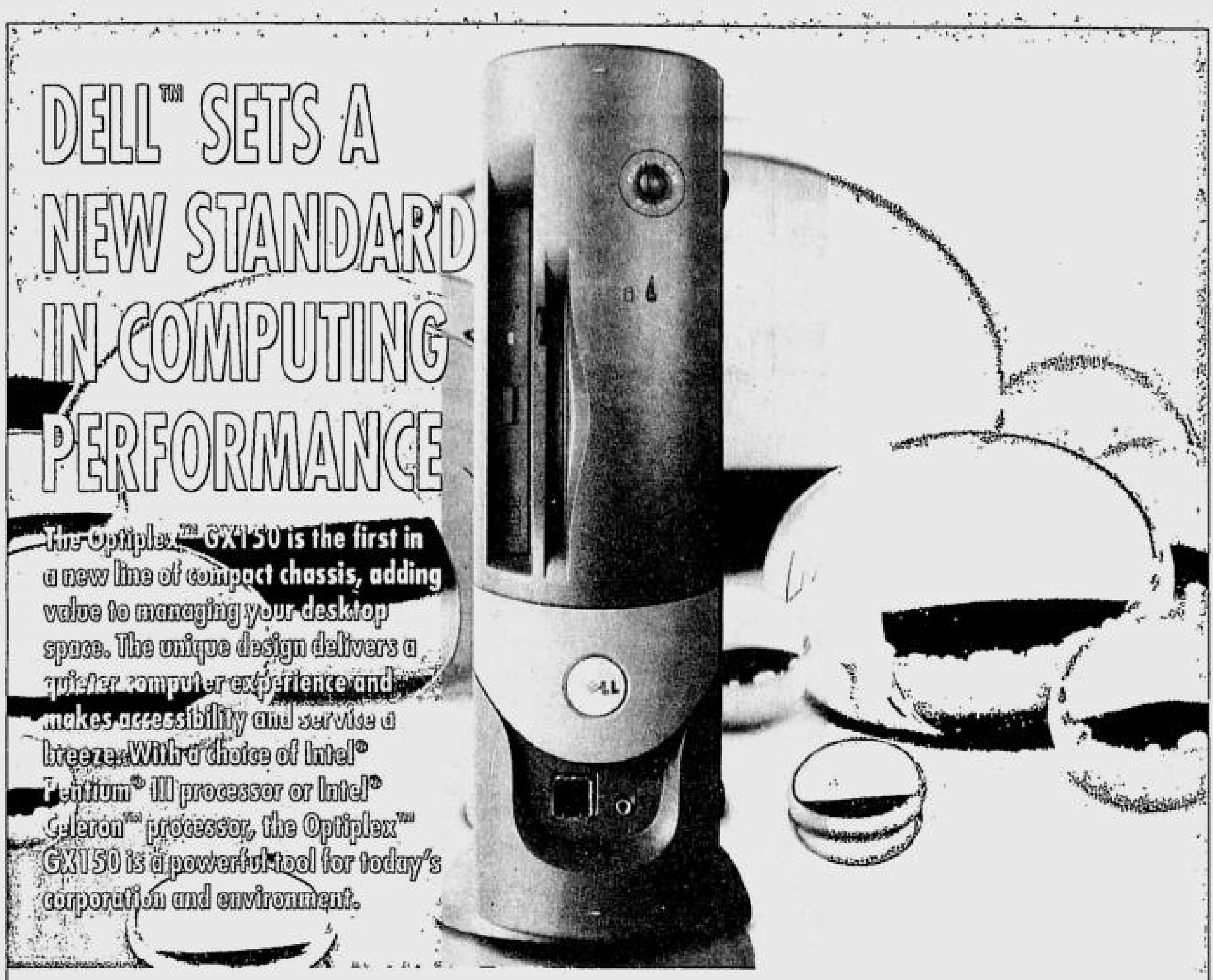

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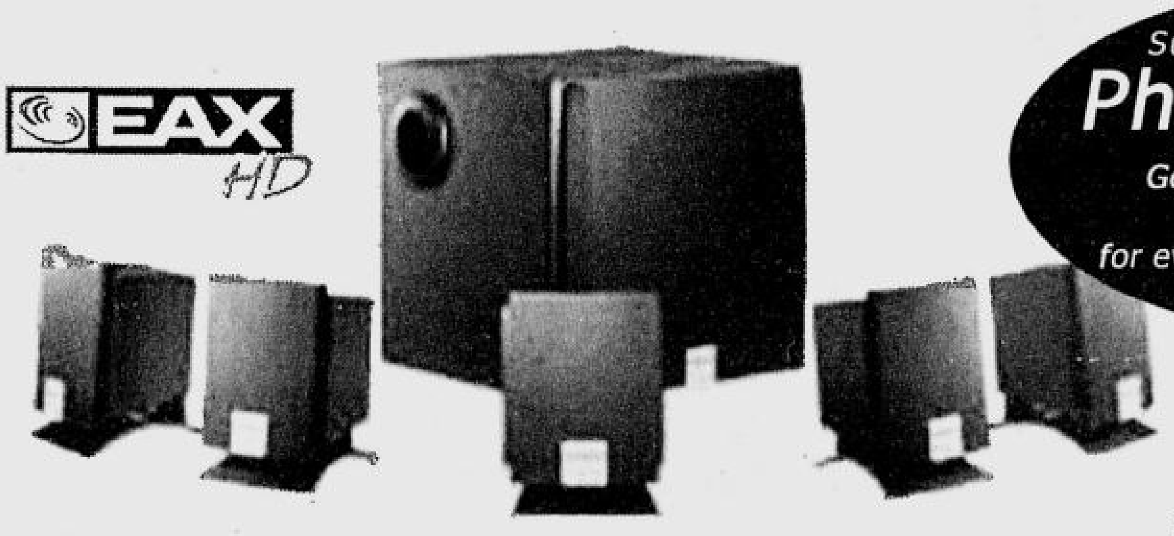

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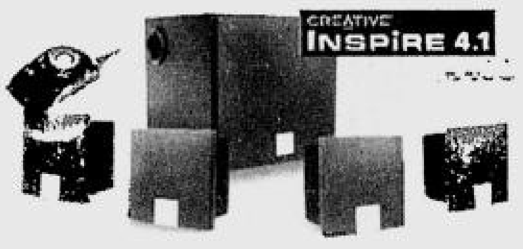

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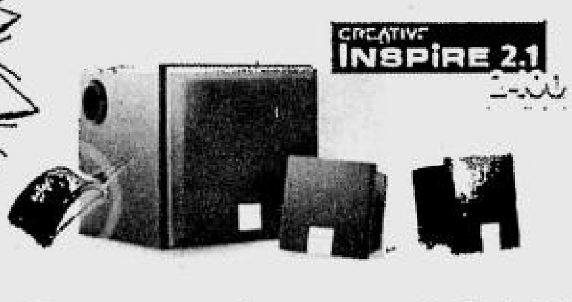

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